Karl Robinson interview + The Academy's young Irish aces + Didi Hamann + The legend of Tom Watson + Neil Mellor

LIVERPOOL FC

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EXCLUSIVE!

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LIVERPOOL LADIES WORLD CUP PREVIEW

RETURN TO OZ SUMMER TOUR PREVIEW

WE WON THE CUP! THE 65 HOMECOMING

GERRARD'S GOALS ALL 186 FOR LFC

BIG AL'S BIRTHDAY A TRIBUTE TO HANSEN



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Contents

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OUR STEVEN

A Kop mosaic greeted Steven Gerrard and his daughters before his 709th game for Liverpool, and his last at Anfield. "It was very emotional," he saud afterwards. "I am very proud looking back at the last 17 years and I will never forget this day."
He added: "It's a day I've been dreading, because I will miss it so much."

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WALK ON

The Reds skipper wore a pair of specially-produced boots for the game against Crystal Palace at Anfield. As well as his initials they included the legend YNWA and a message inside: 'You leave a legend, you'll return a hero, the city of Liverpool is always with you'. Steven posted a picture of himself with the boots on his Instagram page.



BB ZEE!

Liverpool Ladies and Nigeria forward Asisat Oshoala has been named as the inaugural BBC Women's Footballer of the Year.

The 20-year-old pipped Spain's Veronica Boquete, German Nadine Kessler, Scot Kim Little and Brazilian Marta to the honour, voted for by listeners to the BBC World Service. "I would like to say thank you to the BBC, to my fans around the world and to everyone who voted," said Oshoala, who is popularly known at Liverpool as 'Zee'. "There is going to be a lot of motivation for women's football in Nigeria now because of this award because there are a lot of fans out there." Turn to page 72 for an exclusive interview with Asisat about the forthcoming Women's World Cup.



29th-31st July
3rd-7th August
10th-12th August
17th-21st August

The courses offer a range of technical sessions and skills challenges with LFC Academy coaches.

All players will receive an LFC gift, training ball and certificate signed by Ian Rush.

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FOUR FOR PHIL

Philippe Coutinho was the stand-out winner at the 2015 LFC Player Awards, held at the Echo Arena. He collected four in total: Goal of the Year v Southampton at St Mary's; Performance of the Year v Manchester City at Anfield; Player's Player of the Year; and Player of the Year voted for by the fans. Other winners included Steven Gerrard (Outstanding Achievement); Raheem Sterling (Player of the Year as voted by fans); Joao Carlos Teixeira (Academy Player of the Year); and Fara Williams (Liverpool Ladies Player of the Year).



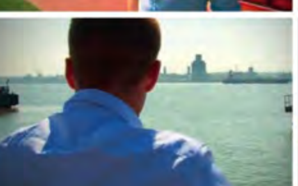
1 #THANKSSTEVIE

Steven Gerrard's send-off was accompanied by a dedicated six-chapter tribute on the official club website. The last two sections were completed during Steven's final week with the club, following his last game at Anfield and the match at Stoke City.

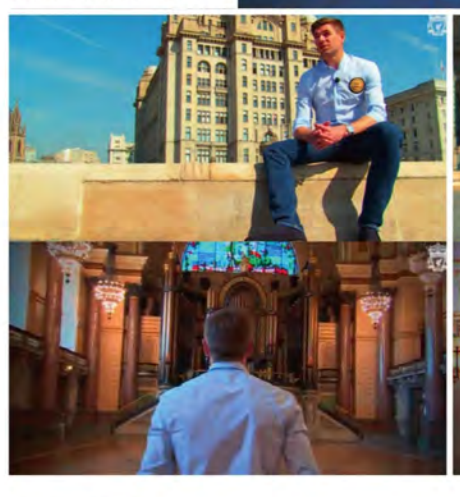
LFC's social media showcased exclusive clips while the hashtag #thanksstevie was used to unite LFC fans. LFCTV and LFCTV GO have also paid homage with an exclusive hour-long documentary entitled *Gerrard: My Liverpool*. Meanwhile *Gerrard: Born and Red* talks to the men credited with guiding him through his formative years, and *Gerrard: All the Goals* does what it says on the tin. LFCTV is available in HD on Sky channel 429 and Virgin Media channel 544. Find out more at liverpoolfc.com/lfctv.















POINTS CLEAR

So long skipper; more of the same please, Jordon; and a Main Stand update



2 STAND & DELIVER

Work on Anfield's Main Stand redevelopment has continued at pace over the past two months, with fans able to watch an official time-lapse video on the club website plus images which capture the speed of the construction.

Over the last couple of months, stairs and the metal decking that will hold the Main Stand's new floor have been installed and all main foundation work has been completed. The new structure has almost reached full height as the highest pedestrian floor level has been installed – it currently stands higher than the existing Main Stand, with an upper tier and roof still to be added.

Once completed (during the forthcoming 2016/17 season) the expanded Main Stand will become one of the largest all-seater stands in Europe's top divisions.



3 JORDON'S NEW DEAL

Signing his new long-term contract made Jordon Ibe feel "over the moon." The 19-year-old winger, who joined the club in 2011, put pen to paper on the deal just before the end of the season, having spent the opening half of 2014/15 on loan at Derby County. Since being recalled, the no33 has impressed in 13 senior appearances. He says: "Liverpool are a great club and I like the philosophy here. I'm enjoying it – I've just been brought into the first team and hopefully I can keep doing well."

Brendan Rodgers says: "He is a young kid with a lot of potential. He still has a lot of work to do to become that consistent performer at the top level, but there's no doubting his potential and he has really grown over the course of the last season."



THE PC WAY OF DOING THINGS

Philippe Coutinho has lit up Anfield during his second full season. Humbled by personal accolades, he tells William Hughes it's all about the team...



It is the final Thursday of the Premier League season and dozens of young supporters are huddled around the entrance to Melwood.

An expectant chatter among the throng fills the air as they gather seeking signatures and selfies with their favourite Reds.

High on their wish-list is Philippe Coutinho, the midfield maestro who has established himself as the creative hub of the Liverpool line-up since moving from Inter Milan in January 2013.

Coutinho was undoubtedly the shining light of Liverpool's 2014/15 season. Quick of mind and fleet of foot, it was no surprise that he swept the board at the club's end of season awards evening.

As he relaxes in the Melwood press room, the no10 admits to having been humbled by the recognition heaped upon him at the ceremony less than 48 hours earlier.

"I genuinely wasn't expecting to win these awards," he says. "Each one is very nice to receive and they all mean a great deal to me but I would single out two categories. The first is my fellow players who voted me their own player of the year. They are like my family who I

"Coming from the supporters these awards mean everything"

meet with every day and so that one was very important and meant a lot to me. The second category is the supporters' awards – coming from the fans it means everything."

As well as scooping the official supporters' Player of the Year accolade, Coutinho has also collected the Liverpool Disabled Supporters Association's gong plus the fans' Golden Samba trophy.

"I would like to thank the supporters," he adds. "From the minute I arrived here they have always treated me very well and that gives me confidence to take onto the field. Playing in front of them at Anfield is an incredible experience but you never take that atmosphere for granted. It really does send shivers down my spine every time that I step on to the field to represent Liverpool."

A sign of the Kop's affection for the 22-year-old regularly dubbed 'the Little Magician' is a banner which features his picture with the words



Celebrating another fine strike in the win over Manchester City

'O Magico' underneath. "It gave me goose bumps when I saw it. To go to the effort to do that is very special and I appreciate it greatly," he says.

While admitting it is always nice to receive personal plaudits, Coutinho doesn't shy away from the fact that when the dust settles on the 2014/15 campaign, he will reflect on a season of disappointment. For him, it is all about the team.

"It has been a difficult campaign because we were unable to achieve our objectives. Yes, it was a good season for me on a personal level and I thank God that I wasn't injured and that I was able to contribute to a good number of games. But while it was great to be recognised at the awards night, I don't really like to talk about myself as it is the team that matters and we stand or fall as a collective. I can't be too happy with the season because, as I say, we were unable to meet the targets we had set out to achieve. We will go away for the summer, think about next year and look to do what we can to improve."

"I can't be too happy because we were unable to meet our targets"

Pushed to pick out one highlight of the campaign however, he plumps for the 2-1 victory over Manchester City at Anfield at the beginning of March.

"One moment? The game against City. The team played very well, we won and it was a very important victory because we were moving up the table at that time. That is definitely the game I would select."

Speaking to this magazine back in August, the gifted technician had set out his hopes for the season. In terms of his own progress, the Brazilian's personal development review would show most boxes ticked.

Back then, he had pointed out that working with Brendan Rodgers and his coaching staff would continue to improve his game.

Sweeping the board

Philippe walked away with four trophies at the club's end-of-season awards night, including Goal of the Year for his spectacular shot v Southampton at St Mary's and Performance of the Year for his outstanding show against Manchester City at Anfield. He also picked up the Player's Player of the Year and Player of the Year Award voted for by the fans.

"I have been here 18 months and so become more familiar with the methods of the coach. It's great because the manager gives the players a lot of freedom. I believe it is very important for footballers to feel that they have a freedom of movement to play their own games and to express ourselves.

"I always want to strive for improvement on the pitch. I want to give my best on the field and try to get better every time I go out there."



Brendan Rodgers has given Phil freedom to express himself

Nine months on, he believes his progress is continuing on a decidedly upwards trajectory.

"People have to remember that when I came here I was taken out of an Inter Milan team where I wasn't really playing. I thank Brendan for that. Liverpool have provided me with a platform to play regularly in one of the best leagues in the world. Brendan is always available to talk to and, for me, that is very important."

Another area Coutinho had targeted improvement in ahead of the season was his goalscoring contribution. His tally of eight in all competitions was three more than achieved in 2013/14 but he believes there is still scope for adding to his total.

"It is something I am working on in every training session. That element of my game has improved but my objective is to try and increase those numbers again and I will be aiming to do that next season."

That 2015/16 campaign will be, of course, one the Reds will have to navigate without the inspirational Steven Gerrard. Coutinho acknowledges that will be difficult but says he feels privileged to have been part of the same midfield for the past two-and-a-half seasons.

"We are losing a legend, a great player and a wonderful captain. We will have to learn how to work without him next year and I am sorry that Steven is going. It has been a great honour to play with him."

Gerrard has described Coutinho as Liverpool's 'next big thing' and the Brazilian says he was flattered by the comments of the outgoing captain.

"Of course it means a great deal to me that he has said that. It is extremely humbling and I will work every day to try and do as he has said."

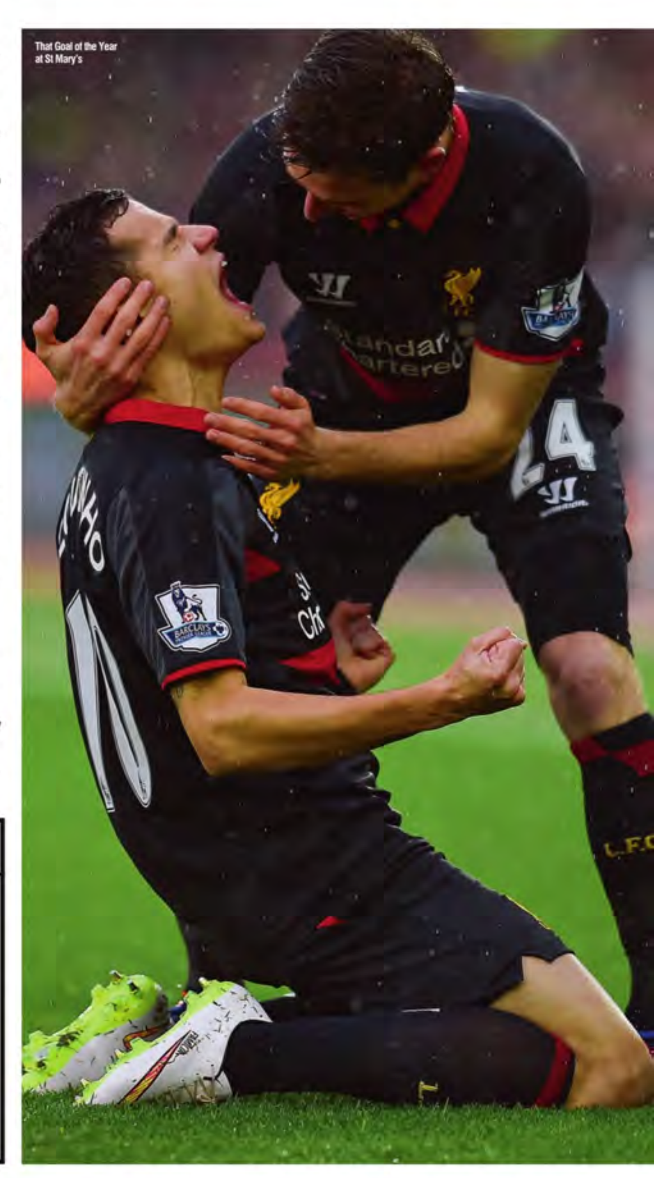
Since coming to England, Coutinho believes he has improved the

Gerrard on Philippe

"I want to pay tribute to Philippe. He's cleaned up on all of the awards and deservedly so, it's an absolute privilege to share a dressing-room with him.

"He's the next big thing, for me, I hope he stays here for a long time and he can help win us some more trophies.

"From all the Liverpool players that are here and the ones that will be here in the future, you just want them to carry on all the club values. That's to work as hard as you can for the badge and give everything you've got every time you put the shirt on."



That Goal of the Year at St Mary's

Steven Gerrard has been an inspiration

"The game in England is more intense – both with and without the ball"

consistency in his game. His high level of performance throughout the course of the season is perhaps best reflected by the fact that he has won five Standard Chartered Player of the Month awards: landing the honour in October, December, January, February and April.

He says: "You always strive for consistency. The game here in England is more intense both with the ball and without the ball. I have been trying to adapt so that I can play that kind of game and have a greater intensity about my work."

Next on the agenda for Coutinho is a summer of international football



A Brazilian winner of the Golden Samba

with Brazil at the Copa America in Chile. Having missed out on selection for last summer's World Cup, he is determined to do all he can to stake a claim for a regular spot in coach Dunga's starting line-up.

"It is a great opportunity for me and I am very happy to be called up for the Copa. Like every child, I dreamt of being selected for the national team and I hope that I will be able to make a contribution to the team's success in the tournament.

"The other nations are very good as well and the Copa is always a very difficult competition to play in, but Brazil have very good players too and I am confident that we are going to do well."

Coutinho also admits to being interested in representing his country at next summer's Olympic Games in Rio as an over-age player.

"If I was given that opportunity, I would take it. Absolutely. I was disappointed not to be involved in the World Cup in Brazil last year so it would be a great opportunity to be

"Once the Copa's over I'll be anxious to start the new season very well"

involved in a major event in Brazil."

Should Brazil reach the final of the Copa in the Chilean capital Santiago on 4 July, there would be less than a fortnight before Liverpool's opening pre-season friendly against Brisbane Roar in Queensland.

"Being truthful, the break is going to be short, but as soon as the Copa is over I will be thinking about the new season at Liverpool and anxious to start it well.

"It is hard to say why things haven't gone to plan this year but confidence plays such a big part in football. At the beginning of the season the team wasn't really playing well and that affected the players. Then we started functioning better as a unit and so the individual players' level of performance increased. For me there is always a relation between the player and the team and, of course, individual and collective confidence levels. We have to make sure that those levels are improved next season.

"My role in the team will be the same. I want to have a good pre-season with the squad and hopefully the beginning of next season will be better than the start we made to this one. First and foremost my aim is to focus on my own game but then my main concern is to play well and do well for the team and the club."

The Copa America 2015

The action in Chile begins on 11 June with 12 countries contesting the tournament at nine venues across eight host cities. Brazil have been drawn in a group with Colombia, Peru and Venezuela. They will be seeking their sixth success in the tournament and their first since 2007.

The team will be captained by Barcelona star Neymar, while former Manchester City forward Robinho is in line to win his 100th cap during the competition. The top two teams in each of the three groups will be joined by the two best third-place finishers in the quarter-finals. The final takes place at the 48,665 capacity Estadio Nacional in Santiago on Saturday 4 July.



Philippe is looking forward to the Copa America



STEVIE WONDERS

GERRARD–ALL THE GOALS

1998/99

13 games 0 goals

On the subs bench for a UEFA Cup tie at Celta Vigo, Steven is a 90th-minute replacement for Vegard Heggem five days later in Liverpool's 2-0 victory over Blackburn. He starts for the first time at Tottenham Hotspur where he was plays at right-back against David Ginola. Under Gerard Houllier he features in 13 games.

1999/00

31 games 1 goal

Gerrard's first full season is marked by a spectacular goal, against Sheffield Wednesday at Anfield. His versatility is noticed by Houllier who deploys him in both full-back positions and across the midfield.

1 v Sheff Wed (H)
05.12.99 PL 69 mins (won 4-1) RF

Kevin Pressman was in goal for the Owls when Gerrard found the net for the first time – on a wintry Sunday afternoon at Anfield. The 19-year-old came into the Reds team for the injured Jamie Redknapp and scored Liverpool's third on the day.

"He picked it up in midfield, skipped past two of our players [Emerson Thome and Des Walker] with minimal effort and slotted it in the bottom corner," recalls Pressman, now a coach at Millwall. "If I didn't know about Steven before the game, I certainly did after. I suppose you could say we were given the briefest of information: which foot; good energy; good movement; can move the ball easily. Then, obviously after that: can score goals! It was a sign of things to come from him. My claim to fame is I started him off on his career!

"His departure will be a massive loss for Liverpool. For me, having spent 20 years at Sheffield Wednesday and watching players come and go, the biggest thing I have noticed is: it's not necessarily the player on the pitch; it's more the loss of that person inside the dressing-room and on the training ground on an everyday basis. He might eventually be replaced on the pitch, but never in the dressing-room or behind the scenes."

For the record the LFC team that day was: Westerveld, Song (Carragher), Matteo, Henchoz, Hyypia, Hamann, Murphy (Staunton), Thompson, Gerrard, Owen (Fowler), Camara.

2000/01

50 games 10 goals
Wins: League Cup; FA Cup; UEFA Cup; PFA young player of the year

Liverpool's first trophy-winning season with Gerrard as a force in the team. At the end of the campaign Steven is named the PFA's young player of the year, having scored 10 goals from midfield, including one in the action-packed victory over Alaves in the UEFA Cup final in Dortmund.

2 v West Ham (A)
17.09.00 PL 12 mins (drew 101) RF

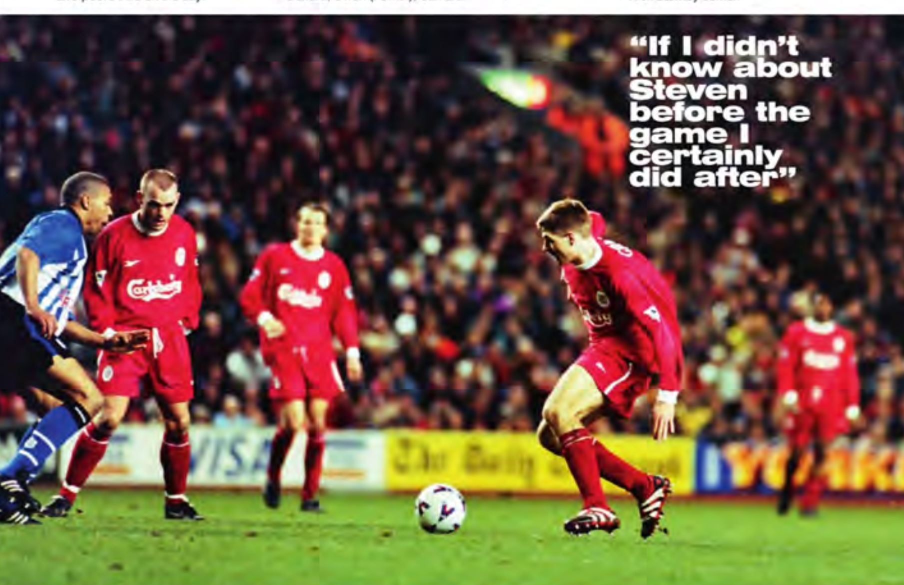
Completes a sweeping Reds move at Upton Park by meeting Danny Murphy's inviting cross from the left.

3 v Coventry (H)
12.11.00 PL 50 mins (won 5-1) H

A near-post header from team-mate Gary McAllister's corner to give the Reds a two-goal advantage .

4 v Olympiacos (A)
23.11.00 UEFAC 67 mins (drew 2-2) H

His first European goal is a looping header from a perfectly weighted Nick Barmby corner.



"If I didn't know about Steven before the game I certainly did after"

KEY: RF Right foot LF Left foot H Header P Penalty FK Free-kick PL Premier League CL Champions League EL Europa League UEFAC UEFA CUP FAC FA Cup LC League Cup WCC World Club Championship

5 v Arsenal (H)
11.12.00 PL 11 mins (won 4-0) RF
Controls the ball on the edge of the box after Markus Babbel's long throw had been only half-cleared and powers home low and hard at the Kop end.

6 v Southampton (H)
01.01.01 PL 12 mins (won 2-1) RF
A brilliant dipping shot from 35 yards that beats Saints goalkeeper Paul Jones all ends up!

7 v Aston Villa (A)
13.01.01 PL 32 mins (won 3-0) RF
Drives his shot into the roof of the net after being teed up by Danny Murphy.

8 v Tranmere Rovers (A)
11.03.01 FAC 52 mins (won 4-2) H
'Over the water', a powerful header from inside a crowded Rovers penalty area following a Gary Mac corner.

9 v Man United (H)
15.04.01 PL 16 mins (won 2-0) RF
The goal of the season for the treble cup-winning campaign: a 67mph rocket from 30 yards against a United side which had a third consecutive Premier League title all but wrapped up. Gerrard, 20, also provided the assist for Liverpool's second goal on the day, scored by Robbie Fowler; and twice in the second half, with Liverpool reduced to 10 men following Danny Murphy's dismissal, he tried to beat United goalkeeper Fabien Barthez from his own half.

"This young lad has got so many qualities in his game," said Alan Parry, Sky Sports commentator during the midday kick-off. "He can tackle, he can pass the ball, he can head it. He can get from one end of the field to the other – and he can also score spectacular goals."

Steven's goal and performance inspired his team and energised the crowd that Saturday afternoon, in what was a season of juggernaut-like momentum – next up was a trip to mighty Barcelona for the first leg of a UEFA Cup semi-final, followed by an FA Cup semi-final at Villa Park against surprise-package Wycombe Wanderers. Ultimately three trophies would be heading to Anfield.

As the Reds completed their first double over United for 22 years, the youngster was subbed to a standing ovation with two minutes remaining and showed characteristic humility after the match: "We were really up for it before the game, and I think we all sensed we were going to win. I was fortunate enough to score the first goal and I have to admit it is one of the best I've ever scored. As soon as it left my foot I knew it was going in – I couldn't have hit it sweeter. I've scored a few like that this season and hopefully there are more to come."



Gerrard pulls the trigger against United at Anfield


Alaves keeper Herrera can't keep out Steven's strike in Dortmund

10 v Leeds United (H)
13.04.01 PL 54 mins (lost 2-1) RF
Cool finish after being picked out by Michael Owen's cross from the left.

11 v Alaves (N)
16.05.01 UEFAC 16 mins (won 5-4) RF
An unerring shot in the Dortmund final after being played through by Owen, making it 2-0 to the Reds.

2001/02

45 games 4 goals
Wins: FA Community Shield; UEFA Super Cup
Liverpool finish second in the Premier League behind Arsenal, and Gerrard scores one of his most memorable goals in the Mersey derby win over Everton, crashing home in front of the Gwladys Street. Because of injury he misses the World Cup finals in Japan and South Korea.

12 v Aston Villa (H)
08.09.01 PL 46 mins (lost 3-1) H
A header from a McAllister corner is deemed to have crossed the line before Dion Dublin could clear.

13 v Everton (A)
15.09.01 PL 11 mins (won 3-1) RF
Pouncing on a poor clearance just outside the area, he accelerates past Gary Naismith and hammers a cross-shot into the far corner.

14 v Dynamo Kyiv (A)
16.10.01 CL 66 mins (won 2-1) LF
Latches onto Vladimir Smicer's header to fire in a shot that clips off a defender and into the far corner of the Kyiv net.

15 v Bolton (H)
01.01.02 PL 50 mins (drew 1-1) LF
Sprints past two Bolton defenders before flicking an exquisite shot past goalkeeper Jussi Jaaskelainen.

2002/03

54 games 7 goals
Wins: League Cup
Gerrard, aged 22, is appointed captain for the first time. "I used to watch John Barnes with the armband and dream that one day it would be me." The League Cup is lifted with the Reds beating Manchester United 2-0 in Cardiff thanks to Steven's 30-yard volley and Michael Owen's late strike.

16 v Birmingham (H)
11.09.02 PL 49 mins (drew 1-1) RF
In a swift counter-attack he shoots diagonally across Blues goalkeeper Nico Vaesen who can only deflect it into the top corner of his net.

17 v Aston Villa (A)
18.12.02 LC 66 mins (won 4-3) RF
Ball runs loose for him to run into space and smash a low drive beyond Villa keeper Peter Enckelman.

18 v West Ham (A)
02.02.03 PL 9 mins (won 3-0) RF
Former Red David James punched away an in-swinging corner but Steven returns it with a fierce strike.

19 v Man United (N)
02.03.03 LC 39 mins (won 2-0) RF
Fires the Reds in front in the Cardiff final with a 25-yarder that deflects off United's David Beckham and beyond the clutches of Fabien Barthez.

20 v Tottenham (A)
16.03.03 PL 82 mins (won 3-2) RF
A breakaway goal as Danny Murphy's pass allows Steven to outpace Ben Thatcher and drill home a low drive.

21 v Leeds United (H)
23.03.03 PL 73 mins (won 3-1) RF
Michael Owen beats two and tees up Steven who side-foots past Paul Robinson to wrap up the victory.

22 v Charlton (H)
21.04.03 PL 90 mins (won 2-1) RF
A last-minute winner as he bursts into the area and skips through tackles before lashing low past Dean Kiely.

2003/04

47 games 6 goals
A difficult season for Steven as team-mate Carragher is ruled out for six months after breaking his leg.

Liverpool finish fourth and Gerard Houllier leaves as manager.

23 v Birmingham (H)
30.11.03 PL 35 mins (won 3-1) P
His first goal from the penalty spot, dispatched after a foul on French striker Florent Sinama-Pongolle.

24 v Bolton (A)
07.02.04 PL Drew 2-2, 69 mins, RF
His cushioned volley from Anthony Le Tallec's cross earns the Reds a point at the Reebok Stadium.

25 v Man City (H)
11.02.04 PL 51 mins (won 2-1) RF
With keeper David James unable to hold onto a loose ball, he takes advantage to convert the rebound.

26 v Levski Sofia (H)
26.02.04 UEFAC 66 mins (won 2-0) LF
Volleys past Levski keeper Ivankov to put the Reds ahead in the first leg of this European tie.

27 v Levski Sofia (A)
03.03.04 UEFAC 6 mins (won 4-2) LF
Rounds the goalkeeper to finish from a tight angle securing an important away goal for Liverpool.

28 v Birmingham (A)
08.05.04 PL 84 mins (won 3-0) RF
Caps off a great Reds away win with a smart finish from the left-hand side, finding the corner of the goal.

2004/05

43 games 13 goals
Wins: UEFA Champions League; LFC top scorer

With Rafa Benitez in charge Liverpool win the Champions League, recovering from three down v AC Milan to draw 3-3 before prevailing on penalties. Gerrard scores Liverpool's first goal. Earlier in the season he'd crucially scored against Olympiacos in the group stages. "He's one of the best players in Europe right now," claims Zinedine Zidane.

29 v Grazer AK (A)
10.08.04 CL (won 2-0) 23 mins RF
Lashes into the top corner to give Liverpool the lead in Austria.

30 v Grazer AK (A)
10.08.04 CL (won 2-0) 79 mins RF
Starts and finishes move that spans the length of the pitch with a side-footed effort to seal victory.

31 v Man City (H)
21.08.04 PL (won 2-1) 75 mins RF
Lung-busting run from deep enables him to finish off a shot from Baros after City keeper James parries.

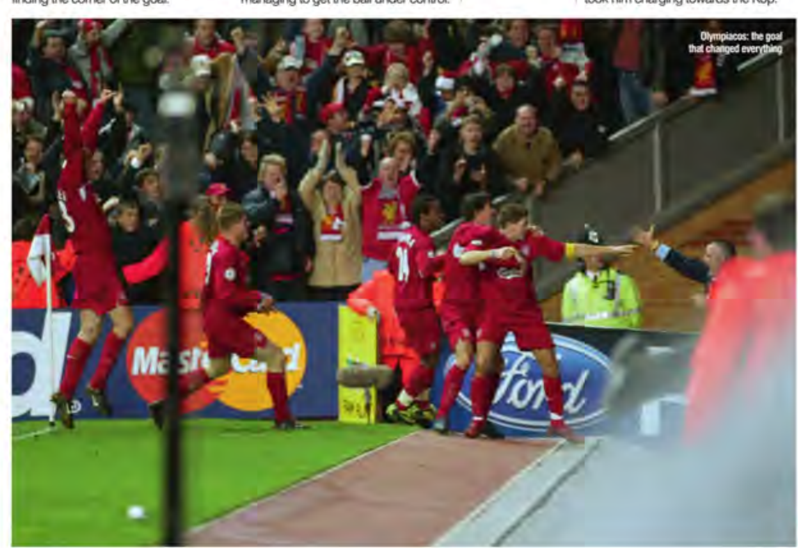
32 v West Brom (H)
11.09.04 PL (won 3-0) 16 mins LF
Playing a one-two with Garcia, he finds the net with his left foot after managing to get the ball under control.

33 v Olympiacos (H)
08.12.04 CL (won 3-1) 86 mins RF
His favourite – a scorching half-volley that brings the house down at Anfield and seals a place in the last 16 of the Champions League.

Liverpool, Olympiacos and Monaco had all entered the final Group A matchday with a chance of progressing to the knockout stages. Only Deportivo La Coruna, on just two points, were already eliminated. Monaco travelled to Spain knowing a win would definitely put them through. At Anfield only a victory was good enough for Liverpool – anything less would have resulted in a post-Christmas place in the UEFA Cup. And the picture was complicated by the fact that if the Greek side scored the Reds would need to win by two goals to leapfrog above them in the table and go through.

Neil Mellor, who along with Florent Sinama-Pingolle had scored to make it 2-1 and set up Steven's grandstand finish, recalls: "When I forced mine over the line it meant we needed just one more goal to seal progression – but it still felt unlikely. I think Jamie Carragher hoisted a pass forward and I could see Stevie rushing forward from deep. I tried my best to touch it onto his path and seconds later the ball was nestling in the back of the net.

"I wanted to join in the celebrations but Stevie's momentum from the shot took him charging towards the Kop.



Olympiacos: the goal that changed everything

Eventually I managed to catch up with him. The atmosphere was the best I've been involved in. The roar was deafening. I couldn't hear what other people were telling me from a few yards away. I remember those seconds clearly. I always will do. We were through."

Steven says: "That goal was one of those strikes you instantly know you've caught sweetly. When it leaves your boot you are just praying it goes on target because it's got a great chance of finding the net. I think you could see what it meant to me in my celebrations. The way we turned that match around was an incredible team effort."

34 v Portsmouth (H)
14.12.04 PL (drew 1-1) 70 mins RF
Smashes home to put the Reds one up against Pompey after a tee-up from a free-kick taken by Hamann.

35 v West Brom (A)
26.12.04 PL (won 5-0) 55 mins RF
Thumps a thunderous shot through the Baggies wall after another smart-thinking Hamann set-piece.

36 v Watford(H)
11.01.05 LC (won 1-0) 56 mins RF
In the semi-final he seizes upon a loose ball to score with a little help from a deflection on the line.

37 v Watford (A)
25.01.05 LC (won 1-0) 77 mins RF
In the second leg against the Hornets, running from the centre-circle he finishes into the bottom corner.

38 v Everton (H)
20.03.05 PL (won 2-1) 27 mins RF
Puts the Reds two up in the Anfield derby with a side-footed finish after a clever free-kick from…Didi again!

39 v Middlesbrough (H)
30.04.05 PL (drew 1-1) 52 mins RF
Trademark 30-yarder leaves future team-mate and Boro keeper Brad Jones clutching that rare O2.

40 v Arsenal (A)
08.05.05. PL (lost 3-1) 51 mins RF
A powerful finish after a lay-off from Hamann gives Liverpool what is only a consolation goal.

41 v AC Milan (N)
25.05.05 CL (drew 3-3; won 3-2 on pens) 54 mins H
Power and direction required to convert his looping header over Dida to begin the comeback in Istanbul.

"Lifting the trophy as captain is the best feeling ever. It's the greatest game I have played in. We were underdogs at the start of the competition and I'll put my hands up and say I didn't think we were going to go all the way. But we are never beaten.



Celebrating a goal at Sunderland in November 2005

"Milan had played the ball so quickly, fluently and cleverly during the first half that it took a lot out of us chasing their shadows because we could not get near them. We were lucky to be only 3-0 down at half-time. Milan's football was world-class.

"When I scored, it started to change. That goal gave us a bit of belief. What happened next was amazing: how do you find words to describe it? In extra-time I spoke to a few of the lads on the pitch and we were all tired. I was running on empty even with 10 or 12 minutes of normal time still to go and I admit I was thinking of penalties.

"When Serginho missed their first one in the shoot-out I thought to myself again: we are meant to win this. I was down to take the fifth penalty for us so I was especially delighted when Jerzy saved from Shevchenko. The manager had asked me whether I wanted to take one and I said yes. When he told me he had put me on the last one, I thought: cheers. How can anything follow a game like that?"

2005/06

53 games 23 goals
Wins: UEFA Super Cup; FA Cup; PFA player of the year; LFC top scorer

In the FA Cup final against West Ham, the skipper scores with a 90th-minute shot from 30 yards to rescue Liverpool, before another penalty shoot-out victory in which he also converts his kick. Steven had earlier registered Liverpool's first equaliser against the Hammers. It's Gerrard's best scoring season to date – he nets 23 times.

42 v TNS (H)
13.7.05 CL 8 mins (won 3-0) RF
Set up by Morientes, he converts with a decisive finish from 10 yards.

43 v TNS (H)
13.7.05 CL 21 mins (won 3-0) RF
Capitalising on uncertainty in the TNS defence he takes advantage with a precise lob over the goalkeeper.

44 v TNS (H)
13.7.05 CL 90 mins (won 3-0) LF
Driving forward from the centre-circle, he tucks the ball away into the bottom corner with his left to register his third.

45 v TNS (A)
19.7.05 CL 85 mins (won 3-0) RF
Comes off the bench to finish with power late into the return leg.

46 v TNS (A)
19.7.05 CL 86 mins (won 3-0) RF
A carefully-placed shot gives him his second in as many minutes against the Welsh team after a run from deep.

47 v FBK Kaunas (A)
26.07.05 CL 54 mins (won 3-1) P
Wins a penalty then converts into the top corner of the Lithuanians' goal after being fouled in the box.

48 v FBK Kaunas (H)
02.08.05 CL 77 mins (won 2-0) RF
His powerful cross-shot found the net to make him the first Liverpool player to score five European goals in as many games.

49 v Chelsea (H)
02.10.05 PL 36 mins (lost 4-1) RF
Nets the only Liverpool goal of the game with a powerful finish from a Riise corner in the first half.

50 v Crystal Palace (A)
25.10.05 LC 40 mins (lost 2-1) RF
Finishes low after driving into the Palace penalty area, to mark his 50th goal for the club.

51 v Aston Villa (A)
05.11.05 PL 84 mins (won 2-0) P
After Peter Crouch is brought down Steven steps up to convert his kick into the bottom-right corner.

52 v Sunderland (A)
30.11.05 PL 45 mins (won 2-0) RF
With Xabi Alonso playing provider, Gerrard rounds the goalkeeper and pokes the ball into an empty net.

53 v Deportivo Saprissa (N)
WCC 32 mins (won 3-0) RF
A fantastic volley finds its way in at the near post after Riise lofts in a cross.

54 v Newcastle (H)
26.12.05 PL 14 (win 2-0) RF
Dummies a Magpies defender before rifling his shot into the top corner of the net after good work by forward Crouch to set him up.




Time's up... unless your name is Steven Gerrard







55 v Everton (A)
28.12.05 PL 18 mins (won 3-1) RF
Delights the travelling Reds with a powerful shot in this Merseyside derby.

56 v Bolton (A)
02.01.06 PL 67 mins (drew 2-2) P
Supplied by Harry Kewell, he wins and converts a spot-kick into the bottom-right corner to draw the Reds level.

57 v Luton Town (A)
07.01.06 FAC 15 mins (won 5-3) RF
Puts the Reds ahead with a swerving shot into the corner in this FA Cup tie.

58 v Portsmouth (A)
29.01.06 FAC 36 mins (won 2-1) P
Strikes the first goal from the spot to send the Reds on their way to the fifth round of the FA Cup.


How to celebrate a rocket v Aston Villa

59 v Birmingham (H)
01.02.06 PL 62 mins (drew 1-1) RF
A deflected finish after good work from Fernando Morientes to spot his late run into the box.

60 v Newcastle (A)
19.03.06 PL 35 mins (won 3-1) RF
Finishes in style after an assist from Crouch 10 minutes before the break.

61 v Aston Villa (H)
29.04.06 PL 60 mins (won 3-1) LF
Finishes with his left foot at the near post to consolidate the lead given to the Reds by Morientes.

62 v Aston Villa (H)
29.04.06 PL 66 mins (won 3-1) RF
A thumping second effort from 30 yards sends Liverpool on their way to victory over the West Midlanders.

63 v West Ham (N)
13.05.06 FAC 54 mins (drew 3-3; won 3-1 on pens) RF
Close-range rocket past Shaka Hislop in the Cardiff final to draw the Reds level at 2-2 in the May heat.

64 v West Ham (N)
13.05.06 FAC 90 mins (drew 3-3; won 3-1 on pens) RF
Twelve months after the miracle of Istanbul the Reds do it again, retrieving a seemingly lost cause in a major cup final – this time in Cardiff – with the skipper right at the heart of it.

It's a game that has since passed into folklore as the 'Gerrard final'. On a baking hot day in the Welsh capital it is the underdogs West Ham United who drew first blood, courtesy of a Jamie Carragher own-goal then an effort from Dean Ashton.

Liverpool striker Djibril Cisse reduces the deficit before half-time with a fine sliding finish from a long pass, and when Steven restores parity nine minutes after the restart with a crashing half-volley inside the penalty area the red half of the Millennium Stadium breathes a huge sigh of relief. It's only a temporary reprieve, however, as Hammers full-back Paul Konchesky soon makes it 3-2 with a speculative cross-shot over Reina.

Ninety minutes gone, and as the claret-and-blue ribbons are being tied to the famous old trophy the Reds captain intervenes again. Shrugging off cramp in strength-sapping conditions, he meets a Hammers clearance flush on the half-volley from 35 yards out to force extra-time. He then finds the net for a third time in the penalty shoot-out and Pepe Reina saves three out of four spot-kicks to clinch the club's seventh FA Cup.

The last-gasp equaliser earns Steven the BBC goal of the season award for 2006 – he becomes the fifth Red to win the honour, following Terry McDermott, Ray Kennedy, John Aldridge (twice) and Dietmar Hamann.

After the match, team-mate and fellow scorer that day, Djibril Cisse, says: "Of all the players I have had the privilege to play alongside, he and Zidane are the best – and right now Stevie is the one I would want by my side."

2006/07

51 games 11 goals
Wins: FA Community Shield; England player of the year; MBE

For the second time in three seasons Liverpool reach the Champions League final. Gerrard plays in 52 out of 59 matches and scores in six successive home games. He signs a new deal tying him to Anfield for four more years.

65 v Bordeaux (H)
31.10.06 CL 71 mins (won 3-0) RF
Nets his first goal of the campaign with an assured finish from a Boudewijn Zenden assist.

66 v PSV Eindhoven (H)
22.11.06 CL 65 mins (won 2-0) RF
Equals Ian Rush as Liverpool's leading scorer in European competition with a strike assisted by Dirk Kuyt.

67 v Man City (H)
25.11.06 PL 67 mins (won 1-0) RF
Takes advantage of a mistake in the City defence to drive the ball with power past Nicky Weaver.

68 v Fulham (H)
09.12.06 PL 54 mins (won 4-0) RF
Sees his penalty saved by Fulham keeper Jan Lastuvka but makes no mistake with the rebound.

69 v Charlton (A)
16.12.06 PL 88 mins (won 3-0) RF
Curling finish two minutes from time to put the result beyond doubt against Charlton in South London.

70 v Bolton (H)
01.01.07 PL 63 mins (won 3-0) RF
Volleys home from the edge of the area after good work from Kuyt and Jermaine Pennant on the wing.

71 v Arsenal (H)
09.01.07 LC 68 mins (lost 6-3) RF
A fantastic volley can't prevent the Reds going out to the Gunners in this extraordinary League Cup tie.

72 v Sheff United (H)
24.02.07 PL 73 mins (won 4-0) RF
A wonderful touch past a defender leaves him free to tuck the ball away past goalie Paddy Kenny.

73 v PSV Eindhoven (A)
03.04.07 CL 27 mins (won 3-0) H
Sets Liverpool on their way to an important away win in the Champions League with a header from deep.

74 v Middlesbrough (H)
18.04.07 PL 58 mins (won 2-0) RF
Strikes a fierce drive from 25 yards to set the Reds on their way to victory.

75 v Middlesbrough (H)
18.04.07 PL 65 mins (won 2-0) P
Sends the goalkeeper the wrong way from the spot after Crouch is fouled in the penalty box.

2007/08

52 games 21 goals
Wins: UEFA Super Cup

With the arrival of Fernando Torres as Liverpool's new no9, Gerrard is pushed into an advanced position and promptly scores another 21 goals.



A fearless header to score in Eindhoven

76 v Aston Villa (A)
11.08.07 PL 87 mins (won 2-1) FK
Arcs a free kick from 20 yards to seal victory after home side Villa had equalised only moments earlier.

77 v Besiktas (A)
24.10.07 CL 85 mins (lost 2-1) H
A precise header after a surging run gives the Reds a crucial away goal in this Champions League match.

78 v Arsenal (H)
28.10.07 PL 7 mins (drew 1-1) FK
A perfectly-placed free-kick puts Liverpool one up against the Gunners.

79 v Cardiff City (H)
31.10.07 LC 66 mins (won 2-1) RF
After good work with Yossi Benayoun, side-foots home with assurance.

80 v Besiktas (H)
06.11.07 CL 69 mins (won 8-0) RF
Plays his part in this eight-goal rout with a fantastic finish after good work by Benayoun and Voronin.

81 vs. Fulham (H)
10.11.07 PL 85 mins (won 2-0) P
Seals victory with a cool penalty after Fulham's Carlos Bocanegra brings down Crouch.

82 v Newcastle (A)
24.11.07 PL 27 mins (own 3-0) FK
Puts Liverpool ahead on Tyneside with a sublime free-kick from distance midway through the first half.

83 v Porto (H)
28.11.07 CL 82 mins (won 4-1) P
Converts a penalty six minutes before time to give the Reds a two-goal lead.

84 v Bolton (H)
02.12.07 PL 56 mins (won 4-0) P
Fires a penalty into the bottom-left corner after Crouch is fouled in the Wanderers penalty area.

85 v Reading (A)
08.12.07 PL 28 mins (lost 3-1) RF
After a great first touch, he slots past Reading keeper Marcus Hahnemann to level the scores in Berkshire.

86 v Marseille (A)
11.12.07 CL 4 mins (won 4-0) RF
With his penalty-kick saved by the Marseille keeper, Gerrard rushes in to convert the rebound.

87 v Derby (A)
26.12.07 PL 90 mins (won 2-1) RF
A mix-up in the Rams defence lets him bundle the ball home to secure a late three points.

88 v Luton Town (H)
15.01.08 FAC 52 mins (won 5-0) H
After a Crouch knockdown he doubles Liverpool's lead with a simple header.

89 v Luton Town (H)
15.01.08 FAC 64 mins (won 5-0) RF
Drives the ball into the bottom corner after arriving late into the box to add a fourth Reds goal v the Hatters.

90 v Luton Town (H)
15.01.08 FAC 71 mins (won 5-0) RF
Puts the result against the Bedfordshire side beyond doubt with a super strike from 30 yards.

91 v Sunderland
(H) 02.02.08 PL 89 mins (won 3-0) P
After Jermaine Pennant is taken down inside the area, Gerrard steps up to slot home the penalty.

92 v Inter Milan (H)
19.02.08 CL 88 mins (won 2-0) RF
Wonderful long-range finish to give Liverpool a precious second goal to take to the return leg at the San Siro in this big Champions League clash.

93 v West Ham (H)
05.03.08 PL 83 mins (won 4-0) RF
Business as usual as Steven fires home from 25 yards to seal an emphatic victory.

94 v Newcastle (H)
08.03.08 PL 51 mins (won 3-0) RF
A wonderful chip past the onrushing keeper Steve Harper after being put through by Fernando Torres.

95 v Arsenal (H)
08.04.08 CL 86 mins (won 4-2) P
Holds his nerve to sink a penalty earned by Ryan Babel after Kolo Toure commits the foul.

96 v Blackburn (H)
13.04.08 PL 60 mins (won 3-1) RF
Passes calmly past Brad Friedel after a one-two with Lucas to open the scoring for Liverpool.

2008/09

44 games 24 goals
Wins: FWA footballer of the year; LFC top scorer
With 24 goals, it's Steven's best scoring season. The memorable campaign includes a 4-0 hammering of Real Madrid at Anfield in the Champions League before a 4-1 win at Manchester United. Gerrard scores in both games.


Late winner in season-opener at Aston Villa


Old Trafford, March 2009







97 v Middlesbrough (H)
23.08.08 PL 90 mins (won 2-1) RF
Provides a fantastic last-minute finish to win Liverpool the three points.

98 v Marseille (A)
16.09.08 CL 26 mins (won 2-1) RF
A world-class finish in front of the French fans as he sends a looping shot past the helpless Mandanda in the Marseille goal.

99 v Marseille (A)
16.09.08 CL 32 mins (won 2-1) P
Seals the win with a penalty after Ronald Zubar trips up wideman Babel inside the area.

100 v PSV Eindhoven (H)
01.10.08 CL 76 mins (won 3-1) FK
Celebrates his 100th goal for the club in style with a smart free-kick from 25 yards out.

101 v Portsmouth (H)
29.10.08 PL 76 mins (won 1-0) P
Slots home from the spot after a goal-attempt from centre-half Sami Hyypia is handballed.

102 v Atletico Madrid (H)
04.11.08 CL 90 mins (drew 1-1) P
Awarded a penalty after a collision in the box, he strikes home with confidence to earn the off-colour Reds a point on the night.

103 v Bolton (A)
15.11.08 PL 73 mins (won 2-0) H
After linking well with Torres he glances the ball into the bottom left-hand corner to put the Reds two up.

104 v Marseille (H)
26.11.08 CL 23 mins (won 1-0) H
Finds himself unmarked at the back post to clinch progression to the knockout stage of the tournament.

105 v Blackburn (A)
06.12.08 PL 90 mins (won 3-1) RF
Keeps his composure to score a last-minute goal to keep Liverpool firmly in the title mix.

106 v Hull City (H)
13.12.08 PL 24 mins (drew 2-2) RF
A neat close-range goal to reduce to deficit after Hull had gone two up.

107 v Hull City (H) 1
3.12.08 PL 32 mins (drew 2-2) RF
In the right place at the right time to hammer home an equaliser for the Reds against the Humbersiders.

108 v Newcastle (A)
28.12.08 PL 31 mins (won 5-1) RF
A wonderful finish off the upright to put the Reds one up against Newcastle.

109 v Newcastle (A)
28.12.08 PL 61 mins (won 5-1) RF
From a Lucas through-ball he adds a fourth goal with a chip over goalkeeper Given.

110 v Everton (H)
19.01.09 PL 68 mins (drew 1-1) RF
A classis strike from distance to give the Reds the derby lead.

111 v Everton (H)
25.01.09 FAC 54 mins (drew 1-1) LF
Six days later, a fine left-footed finish after a fantastic flick from Torres.

112 v Real Madrid (H)
10.03.09 CL 28 mins (won 4-0) P
Gabriel Heinze handles in the area and Gerrard steps up to increase Liverpool's lead in this clash of giants.

113 v Real Madrid (H)
10.03.09 CL 47 mins (won 4-0) RF
Cuts across the box to execute a stunning half-volley after great work from Ryan Babel in the build-up.

114 v Man United (A)
14.03.09 PL 44 mins (won 4-1,) P
Kisses the camera at Old Trafford after putting the Reds ahead in a crucial clash against their great rivals.

115 v Aston Villa (H)
22.03.09 PL 39 mins (won 5-0) P
An assured penalty after Riera is fouled by Nigel Reo-Coker in the box.



116 v Aston Villa (H)
22.03.09 PL 50 mins (won 5-0) FK
A well-worked free-kick sees Gerrard send the ball into the back of the net five minutes after the interval.

117 v Aston Villa (H)
22.03.09 PL 65 mins (won 5-0) P
Seals his hat-trick with another penalty after Villa keeper Brad Friedel is dismissed for taking down Torres.

118 v West Ham (A)
09.05.09 PL 2 mins (won 3-0) RF
Finishes past the onrushing goalie Robert Green after good work from Torres to provide the assist.

119 v West Ham (A)
09.05.09 PL 38 mins (won 3-0) RF
After his penalty is saved by Green he follows up to convert the rebound.

120 v West Brom (A)
17.05.09 PL 28 mins (won 2-0) RF
Opens proceedings against Albion with a deft chip after a defensive error.

2009/10

49 games 12 goals
In Benitez's last season in charge Liverpool finish seventh. Gerrard features in 49 games, scoring 12 goals.

121 v Tottenham (A)
16.08.09 PL 56 mins (lost 2-1) P
Converts a penalty after debutant Glen Johnson is brought down by Spurs keeper Gomes.

122 v Bolton (A)
29.08.09 PL 83 mins (won 3-2) RF
Hammers into the top corner from 12 yards after a Benayoun corner was headed into his path by Torres.

123 v Hull City (H)
26.09.09 PL 61 mins (won 6-1) RF
A looping cross-shot finds its way underneath the crossbar and over Hull keeper Myhill.

124 v Birmingham (H)
09.11.09 PL 71 mins (drew 2-2) P
David Ngog is brought down in the area leaving Gerrard to fire home.

125 v Wolves (H)
26.12.09 PL 62 mins (won 2-0) H
A powerful header after Emiliano Insua whips in a delightful cross.

126 v Reading (A)
02.01.10 FAC 36 mins (drew 1-1) RF
A teasing ball into the box aimed for Kuyt finds its way to the bottom corner of Reading's goal.

127 v Unirea (A)
25.02.10 EL 57 mins (won 3-1) RF
Slots the ball home after good build-up play from Lucas and Benayoun.



Late screamer at Bolton

128 v Blackburn (H)
28.02.10 PL 20 mins (won 2-1) LF
Picking up the ball inside Blackburn's half, he starts and finishes a move to open the scoring.

129 v Lille (H)
18.03.10 EL 9 mins (won 3-0) P
Dispatches a penalty to give Liverpool an early goal as they seek to overturn a first-leg deficit v the French side.

130 v Birmingham (A)
04.04.10 PL 47 mins (drew 1-1) RF
Fires in a fantastic opener to give Liverpool the lead at St Andrews.

131 v Burnley (A)
25.04.10 PL 52 mins (won 4-0) RF
A deflected effort finds its way into the back of the Clarets net as he opens the scoring in East Lancashire.

132 v Burnley (A)
25.04.10 PL 59 mins (won 4-0) RF
Curls a fine 25-yard effort in the same fixture to seal an impressive day at the office for the Reds.

2010/11

24 games 8 goals
Gerrard's season is interrupted by injury and his 24 appearances is his lowest total since 1998/99. He still manages to score eight goals.

133 v Rabotnicki (H)
05.08.10 EL 40 mins (won 2-0) P
Ngog goes down and Stevie puts the ball away from the spot in this Europa League qualifier.

134 v Man United (A)
19.09.10 PL 64 mins (lost 3-2) P
Keeps his cool to claw a goal back for the Reds after Torres is brought down in the area.

135 v Man United (A)
19.09.10 PL 70 mins (lost 3-2) FK
Takes advantage of a poor United wall to convert a free-kick.

136 v Sunderland (H)
25.09.10 PL 64 mins (drew 2-2) H
Gerrard heads home a Torres cross to regain a point for Liverpool after Sunderland go ahead controversially with that 'beachball' goal.

137 v Napoli (H)
04.11.10 EL 75 mins (won 3-1) RF
The first of three against the stunned Italian side. He pounces on a back-pass to divert the ball beyond the goalkeeper after coming on as a sub.

138 v Napoli (H)
04.11.10 EL 88 mins (won 3-1) P
Puts the Reds in front for the first time on the night after Reds defender Glen Johnson is fouled.

139 v Napoli (H)
04.11.10 EL 89 mins (won 3-1) RF
Completes this Europa League hat-trick with a delightful dink over the Napoli keeper – what a cameo!

140 v Blackburn (A)
05.01.11 PL 81 mins (lost 3-1) RF
Lashes in a half-volley after Torres has a shot is blocked.

2011/12

28 games 9 goals
Wins: League Cup; England player of the year
Liverpool beat Cardiff City to win the Carling Cup – Gerrard's first trophy since 2006 – and also reach the FA Cup final. Steven scores a hat-trick in a 3-0 derby victory over Everton plus important goals in both legs of the Carling Cup semi-final v Manchester City.

141 v Man United (H)
15.10.11 PL 68 mins (drew 1-1) FK
When Charlie Adam is tripped by Rio Ferdinand, Stevie curls a low free-kick through a gap in the United wall.

142 v Newcastle (H)
30.12.11 PL 78 mins (won 3-1) LF
Runs from deep to take a Jordan Henderson pass in his stride and slide a low finish under Tim Krul.


Beating Birmingham keeper Joe Hart in November 2009

143 v Oldham (H)
06.01.12 FAC 45 mins (won 5-1) P
Thumps a spot-kick into the Latics top corner following a foul on team-mate Maxi Rodriguez.

144 v Man City (A)
11.01.12 LC 13 mins (won 1-0) P
Ignores Joe Hart's mind-games to place the ball beyond the reach of the City keeper in this semi-final.

145 v Man City (H)
25.01.12 LC 40 mins (drew 2-2) P
Micah Richards' handball leads to a penalty and Gerrard beats England colleague Hart from the spot again.

146 v Brighton (H)
19.02.12 FAC 71 mins (won 6-1) LF
Sloppy Seagulls defending sees his first shot saved but the rebound forced over the line from a tight angle.

147 v Everton (H)
13.03.12 PL 34 mins (won 3-0) LF
Coolly floats the ball into an inviting net at the Anfield Road end after Blues goalie Tim Howard saves from Reds right-back Martin Kelly.

148 v Everton (H)
13.03.12 PL 51 mins (won 3-0) RF
After Luis Suarez cuts in from the right flank he leaves the ball to Gerrard who slams it high into the net.

149 v Everton (H)
13.03.12 PL 90 mins (won 3-0) LF
Combines with Suarez again to steer the ball in from close range.

Steven rates this derby treble as one of the highlights of his Liverpool career. It was his fifth hat-trick, coming as it did on his 400th league appearance for the club, and a month after he'd lifted the Carling Cup after a penalty shoot-out in the Wembley final against Cardiff City.

Going into this 186th league meeting of English football's most-played derby, the Reds had endured three consecutive defeats in the Barclays Premier League – but it was the first time all season that Liverpool had started a league match with Gerrard and strikers Luis Suarez and Andy Carroll all on duty. Meanwhile David Moyes was a few hours from the 10th anniversary of his appointment as Everton boss, and looking for his first victory on enemy soil.

No Liverpool player had notched a hat-trick in this fixture since Ian Rush's famous four goals at Goodison Park back in 1982. Afterwards Dalglish commented: "There is no way I could extol the virtues of Steven Gerrard and do him justice. Three goals tonight was fantastic reward for him."

A month and one day later the two sides would meet again, this time in the FA Cup semi-final at Wembley.


Drives home the third of three against the Blues at Anfield in March 2012

2012/13

46 games 10 goals
A first season in charge for Brendan Rodgers – the fifth Reds manager for whom Steven has played – and a farewell campaign for Gerrard's team-mate and pal Jamie Carragher.

150 v Gomel (H)
09.08.12 EL 41 mins (won 3-0) RF
Suarez goes past two defenders and squares for the captain to tap in.

151 v Man United (H)
23.09.12 PL 46 mins (lost 2-1) LF
In this emotional fixture just after the Hillsborough Panel findings, he takes a dropping ball on his chest in the area and volleys in with his weaker foot.

152 v Aston Villa (H)
15.12.12 PL 87 mins(lost 3-1) H
Gets his head to Johnson's cross-shot to divert the ball into the Villa net.

153 v Fulham (H)
22.12.12 PL 36 mins (won 4-0) RF
Latches on to Stewart Downing's reverse-pass to place an exact finish across the goalkeeper.

154 v Stoke City (A)
26.12.12 PL 2 mins (lost 3-1) P
Just seconds in at Stoke when Gerrard opens the scoring with a penalty.


Etihad, Feb 2013... What. A. Goal.

155 v Norwich City (H)
19.01.13 PL 66 mins (won 5-0) RF
A low bouncing effort from outside the box makes it 4-0.

156 v Man City (A)
03.02.13 PL 73 mins (drew 2-2) RF
Chests down a loose ball 25 yards out before powering an unstoppable half-volley past old foe Hart.

157 v Swansea City (H)
17.02.13 PL 34 mins (won 5-0) P
Ignores delaying tactics by the visitors to put the ball in the corner beyond goalkeeper Michel Vorm.

158 v Tottenham (H)
10.03.13 PL 82 mins (won 3-2) P
Gerrard wins an entertaining contest late on with a calmly-converted penalty at the Kop end.

159 v Aston Villa (A)
31.03.13 PL 60 mins (won 2-1) P
After Suarez draws a foul from the Villa defence, Gerrard nets the winner.

2013/14

39 games 14 goals
Following his pre-season testimonial match against Olympiacos at Anfield, Steven moves into third in the list of all-time appearance-makers, ending the campaign on a total of 669. He converts no less than 11 penalties in all competitions.

160 v Crystal Palace (H)
05.10.13 PL 38 mins (won 3-1) P
Despite Eagles keeper Julian Speroni's antics on the line Gerrard sends him the wrong way with the penalty.

161 v Newcastle (A)
19.10.13 PL 42 mins (drew 2-2) P
Dispatches a Suarez-won penalty at St James' Park with confidence to seal his 100th league goal.

162 v Hull City (A)
01.12.13 PL 27 mins (lost 3-1) FK
Arrows a free-kick around the wall and into Allan McGregor's goal.

163 v Stoke City (A)
12.01.14 PL 51 mins (won 5-3) P
Calmly slots the ball past Potters goalie Asmir Begovic from 12 yards in this eight-goal thriller in the rain.

164 v Aston Villa (H)
18.01.14 PL 53 mins (drew 2-2) P
Beats Brad Guzan with a low-struck penalty to make it 2-2 at Anfield.

165 v Everton (H)
28.01.14 PL 21 mins (won 4-0) H
Soars to connect superbly with a Suarez corner at the Anfield Road end and break the deadlock in front of the visiting Everton fans.

Wins it at Craven Cottage to send the travelling Reds wild

166 v Fulham (A)
12.02.14 PL 90 mins (won 3-2) P
With the midweek encounter poised at 2-2, a nerveless Gerrard wins it with an exact effort. Cue unbridled joy!

167 v Arsenal (A)
16.02.14 FAC 59 mins (lost 2-1) P
Halves the deficit with a well-struck, low spot-kick, but the Gunners go through.

168 v Southampton (A)
01.03.14 PL 90 mins (won 3-0) P
A superb spot-kick flies high into the net as the rampant Reds score three.

169 v Man United (A)
16.03.14 PL 34 mins (won 3-0) P
Rafael's handball allows Gerrard to make it 1-0 with a side-footed effort in front of the Stretford End.

170 v Man United (A)
16.03.14 PL 46 mins (won 3-0) P
Another penalty and the same result as he places the ball in the bottom corner.

171 v Sunderland (H)
26.03.14 PL 39 mins (won 2-1) RF
Opens the scoring with a thumping free-kick into the top corner.

172 v West Ham (A)
06.04.14 PL 44 mins (won 2-1) P
Sends Adrian the wrong way after James Tomkins had handled the ball.

173 v West Ham (A)
06.04.14 PL 71 mins (won 2-1) P
Moves ahead of Kenny Dalglish in the club's all-time top goalscorers list with another successful pen.

2014/15

41 games 13 goals
Steven passes the 500-mark for Premier League appearances and skippers Liverpool for the 473rd time in his final game against Stoke City (the great Ron Yeats is next-in-line with 417 matches as captain).

174 v Tottenham (A)
31.08.14 PL 49 mins (won 3-0) P
In making it 2-0 from the spot he surpasses Jan Molby as Liverpool's all-time leading penalty-scorer.



175 v Ludogorets (H)
16.09.14 UCL 90 mins (won 2-1) P
A nerveless late penalty dispatched in front of the Kop to clinch the points in this Champions League group opener.

176 v Everton (H)
27.09.14 PL 65 mins (drew 1-1) FK
Tim Howard gets a hand to the free-kick but can only help it into the net.

177 v Leicester (A)
02.12.14 PL 54 mins (won 3-1) RF
Pounces on a loose ball in the area to drive a low finish past Foxes keeper Kasper Schmeichel.

178 v Basel (H)
09.12.14 UCL 81 mins (drew 1-1) FK
Whips an inch-perfect set-piece in off the post at the Kop end to set up a dramatic finale against the Swiss.

179 v Leicester (H)
01.01.15 PL (drew 2-2) P
Opens the scoring from 12 yards after Wes Morgan is adjudged to have handled a Raheem Sterling cross.

180 v Leicester (H)
01.01.15 PL (drew 2-2) P
Sends the keeper the wrong way with his second spot-kick of the afternoon in a hard-fought draw with Leicester.

181 v AFC Wimbledon (A)
05.01.15 FAC (won 2-1) H
Javier Manquillo's cross is met by the inrushing no8's downward header.

182 v AFC Wimbledon (A)
05.01.15 FAC (won 2-1) FK
A bending free-kick dips over the wall and beyond the fingertips of the keeper against the South Londoners.

183 v Tottenham (H)
10.02.15 PL 53 mins (won 3-2) P
The skipper places his spot-kick in the corner and away from Hugo Lloris.

184 v QPR (H)
02.05.15 PL 87 mins (won 2-1) H
In his penultimate Anfield game he puts an earlier missed penalty behind him to head the winner at the Kop.

185 v Chelsea (A)
10.05.15 PL 44 mins (drew 1-1) H
Heads home at the far post from Henderson's free-kick on the stroke of half-time to silence the home fans.

186 vs Stoke City (A)
24.05.15 PL 70 mins (lost 6-1) RF
Runs on to Rickie Lambert's header to get behind the Stoke defence and place a low finish beyond Asmir Begovic, marking his last LFC game with a goal.

Watch all the goals!

As part of its own special tribute LFCTV has been showing all 186 of Steven's goals. The channel is available on Sky 429 and Virgin Media 544. For more information on viewing schedules, please log on to www.liverpoolfc.com/lfctv



Saving the day against QPR with his last goal at Anfield

THE SCORING STATISTICS



186 goals put him fifth in all-time Liverpool FC scorers list behind Ian Rush (346), Roger Hunt (286), Gordon Hodgson (241) and Billy Liddell (228).

120 scored in Premier League; 30 in UEFA Champions League; 15 in FA Cup; 9 in League Cup; 7 in UEFA Europa League; 4 in UEFA Cup; 1 in World Club Championship.

Scored in an FA Cup final, League Cup final, UEFA Champions League final and UEFA Cup final.

13 scored v Aston Villa; 10 v Everton; 9 v Manchester United and West Ham United; 8 v Newcastle; 7 v Bolton Wanderers; 6 v Manchester City, Arsenal and Birmingham City; 5 v Tottenham Hotspur and TNS.

7 scored v Tim Howard (Everton) and Jussi Jaaskelainen (Bolton); 5 v Gerard Doherty (TNS), Shay Given (Newcastle), Joe Hart (Birmingham City and Man City) and David James (Aston Villa, West Ham, Man City and Portsmouth).

120 goals scored in second half; 66 goals scored in first half.

47 penalties converted – five more than previous Liverpool FC record-holder Jan Molby.

104 goals scored at Anfield – the same number as Kenny Dalglish.

First goal scored (v Sheff Wed) aged 19 years and 189 days; last goal scored (v Chelsea) aged 34 years and 359 days.

21 England goals in 114 international appearances.

California

What can Steven Gerrard expect when he joins reigning MLS champions LA Galaxy?

Steven Gerrard will be eligible to play for LA Galaxy once the MLS summer transfer-window opens on 1 July. His new manager Bruce Arena, who met him in February before Liverpool's Europa League tie with Besiktas at Anfield, told ESPN: "He's an experienced person and he will be able to adapt. I'm quite optimistic about that."

Galaxy play in the Western Conference of the MLS, with Vancouver Whitecaps making recent headway at the top. A dozen teams from the Eastern and Western Conferences (top six from each) qualify for the MLS Cup play-offs – effectively a knock-out stage like the Champions League with the one-off final scheduled for December.

Galaxy, known as Los Galacticos, are the only club to win five titles, the most recent last year. "In every way they are a marquee franchise," says MLS writer Graham Ruthven, "from their big-name signings to their success on the pitch.

"They also have one of the best home grounds in the league, StubHub Center. English fans might find the benches that make up most of the stands rather strange but it's a top-class venue." Named after a sponsor, an online ticket marketplace, the stadium is located 10 miles south of downtown Los Angeles on the campus of California State University.



Ruthven continues: "It's fair to say that MLS is still very much a developing competition at this stage. But it's like any other league in the world: there are good teams and bad teams. The pace is quite similar to that of British football. The number of artificial pitches in the league can slow it down sometimes, but most games are played at a high tempo.

"It is challenging and plenty of big names have come unstuck in the past, like Rafael Marquez who signed for

dreaming





"It's quite common for MLS teams to train at night before flying to a game"

the New York Red Bulls from Barcelona as one of the best central defenders in Europe but was ultimately released by the club after a diffcult spell playing here. Steven Gerrard obviously has the ability to be a big success but that doesn't mean that he will find it easy.

"Another thing is that media coverage of the league is very different to the UK. Access is much more available, with the locker rooms opened up to the press after every game. Of course they are a little more protective of their big names, but even then access is much easier.

"Training is different, too. Because of the intense travelling schedule MLS sides tend to train whenever they can. It's not like in the Premier League where a team can practise at their own training ground in the morning then travel to a game in the evening. It's quite common for MLS teams to train at night before flying to a game the next morning."

Steven will be joining former Reds team-mate Robbie Keane at Galaxy, although another star man, Landon Donovan, retired last season. Ruthven says the current best players in the league are, "in no particular order, Keane, Obafemi Martins [Seattle Sounders], Bradley Wright-Phillips [New York Red Bulls], Jermaine Jones [New England Revolution] and Diego Valeri [Portland Timbers]."

AREN'T YOU...

Robbie Keane: the ex-Red has scored 55 goals in 88 games for Galaxy as skipper. "[Gerrard] is arriving as an addition, not as a replacement as captain," he's told reporters. "I'm looking forward to it. I've obviously spoken to him and he's excited about it."

Nigel Reo-Coker: the ex-West Ham captain will hope to avenge LFC's 2006 FA Cup final win if his Montreal Impact ever face Galaxy.

Frank Lampard: after so many Premier League duels the pair may face each other when Lampard joins New York City FC – if both clubs progress to the MLS post-season.

Kaka: last faced Steven in the 2005 and 2007 Champions League finals and now plays for Orlando City.

Krisztian Nemeth: spent three years at Liverpool but left for Olympiacos without making a full first-team appearance; now with Kansas City in the Eastern Conference.

Benoit Cheyrou: the French midfielder is brother of ex-Red Bruno and recently joined Toronto FC.



For footballers summer comes and goes in the blink of an eye

Didi HAMANN

Summer is usually seen as a time when footballers hit the beach and spend weeks and weeks doing absolutely nothing.

The reality is much different. When I played we'd usually finish with Liverpool around the end of May before joining up with our national teams for games or a tournament in June. Then we'd be back for pre-season training at the start of July. So in reality it was maybe a few weeks off, and that was in a good year.

Now the schedule is even more packed for the top players. This year's Champions League final is on 6 June and there are European Championship qualifiers the following weekend. Most Premier League clubs will go on pre-season tour roughly three weeks from then. It's just not enough time to rest, especially in England where there is no winter break - and this is in a year where there is no World Cup or Euros taking place.

Non-tournament summers should be used as a chance to give everyone a proper breather, otherwise you'll see more and more of the top players picking up serious injuries in the future. Footballers need time away from the game for their bodies to recover and to refresh mentally.

I usually went back to Germany to see friends and family then did a week in Spain or Portugal to get some sunshine. I was lucky to be able to eat and drink what I wanted – my weight never really changed. But not everyone is like that. Some had to watch their diet a bit more closely; they would put on a stone if they were inactive for just a week and the last thing you want is to turn up on the first day of pre-season completely out of shape.

Despite weight never being a problem for me I always made sure that I did some fitness work the week before we were due back at Melwood, usually a few 30-minute runs. That, and maybe the odd game of tennis or round of golf, was the only exercise I usually did during the summer.

"Players need time away from the game for their bodies to recover"



Just one Cornetto, Didi?

I always felt a complete break from the pressures of the game was beneficial, especially if the season had finished in a disappointing fashion. Thankfully most of the years I was at Liverpool ended with us in the top four or having picked up a trophy. But there was the odd campaign, such as when we lost to Bradford in 2000 on the last day and missed out on the Champions League, that leave you frustrated and that feeling stays with you in to the summer.

I found getting over the 2002 World Cup final defeat against Brazil took me a long time, months rather than weeks, especially as I'd been involved in us conceding the first goal.

Eventually during the summer there comes a time when you have had enough of being away from football and you start to look at transfer speculation. You obviously want to see your club linked with top players, although professionals probably don't get as excited as the fans. The danger of looking at transfer stories is there might be talk of someone who plays in your position coming in. Some players can't handle that. I always saw it as a challenge and accepted that it was part of being at a big club.

It's only when you turn up for the first day of pre-season that you can see exactly how good the new players are. Then it all starts again, and within 30 minutes of being out on the pitch at Melwood doing some running, the summer holidays suddenly seem a long time ago.

Follow Didi on Twitter @DietmarHamann

"THERE'S NOTHING BETTER THAN PUTTING ON A PAIR OF COPA MUNDIALS AND COACHING A BUNCH OF FOOTBALLERS – IT'S THE BEST FEELING IN THE WORLD"

Karl Robinson has just managed MK Dons into the Championship – but the former Liverpool FC Academy coach tells Simon Hughes he's still learning his trade

Eight days on from MK Dons' promotion to the Championship and manager Karl Robinson's phone has not stopped ringing. He has bought a diary to organise his media engagements. This is one of them.

He's travelling to Swindon to cover a League One play-off tie with Sheffield United for Sky television. He speaks on his hands-free set and stops at a service station to buy a new charger, having left his own at home in the rush to meet the latest impending appointment. The afterglow of his achievement remains. But thoughts are already with next season.

"Once you achieve success it's something you want to repeat on a consistent basis," he says. "It's the way I was brought up as a coach at Liverpool: you win then you move on. You only look at medals briefly otherwise you'll start falling behind. The focus is already on doing something else, the next challenge. We've enjoyed the limelight but we're all very determined to compete at a higher level and not just be another number."

Robinson is 34 and the third-longest serving manager in England. The start of May marked the fifth year since he was coroneted at MK Dons, when few outside coaching circles had heard of him. Before that, his work at Liverpool's academy led to opportunities at Milton Keynes then Blackburn Rovers, where he met Robbie Fowler.



"You can't coach Robbie, of course," he laughs. "Tugay was there, along with Roque Santa Cruz and Benni McCarthy. All of these players are living legends in their own country. Then there was me: a lad from Garston."

A relationship with Fowler blossomed and after a spell as a player-manager in Thailand in 2012, the legendary former Liverpool forward briefly joined Robinson's staff. "I still phone Robbie and ask him for advice. As bold as I might sometimes seem, I realise success in football is built around support. That's why I'm so grateful to people like John Gorman, who was my assistant [at MK Dons] in the first few years. Then there was Mick Harford, Ian Wright and Didi Hamann. You need to have good, strong people around you."

Robinson has now been away from Liverpool longer than he was there. Bill Bygroves, Liverpool FC's chaplain, had originally introduced him to Steve Heighway, then the Academy director, after a back injury led to him being released by Swindon Town before his professional playing career had even started.

"I didn't know what I was going to do. I loved football and I loved Liverpool. I was very fortunate that Steve believed in me. I realise how unbelievable it was. I was in my early 20s; I was working with the club that I supported and getting taught the right way. There was a tremendous burden with the work and Steve reminded us of that every day.

"For our development as coaches

"I was in my 20s working with the football club that I supported"

Steve encouraged us to play non-league football. To be a good coach, you have to love playing more than anything, whatever that level might be at. So I signed for Marine, Mike Yates was with Lancaster, Iain Brunskill with Droylsden, Steve Hollis with Accrington Stanley, Stuart Gelling with Colwyn Bay and Gareth Evans at Witton Albion. We'd play for our clubs on a Saturday then coach Liverpool's Under-6s, 7s, 8s and 9s the following morning. It was a brilliant life. We went touring in the Far East and North America. Going anywhere with a Liverpool badge on your coat – I couldn't have been any prouder.

"Steve touched the careers of so many coaches as well as players. He was big on core values. The most important one was that you could always do better. Regardless of the achievement, you can improve. That was the message put onto us as coaches and then from us as coaches to the young players, which therefore improved them.

"I coached a lot of players currently in Liverpool's Under-21 side. Ryan Kent, Cameron Brannagan and Jack Dunn

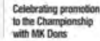


Karl (right) with Steven Gerrard and fellow coaches in 2006

came at six [years old] and Harry Wilson was there at eight. I'll never forget the first day Jordan Rossiter arrived, wearing a Celtic kit. He really dominated the play from midfield. He was one that made you go 'wow' straightaway. You have to have a certain mentality to play for Liverpool and Jordan has that. Hopefully he'll go all the way."

Robinson believes Steven Gerrard has set the standard that all of Liverpool's Academy players are judged by. "Steven's only a year older than me but I'm not embarrassed to admit that he's my hero." A photograph exists of Robinson standing beside Gerrard with other young Academy coaches at a party after Liverpool defeated West Ham United in the 2006 FA Cup final.

By the time this article goes to print, Gerrard will no longer be a Liverpool player. Robinson can relate to how



Celebrating promotion to the Championship with MK Dons

difficult it is departing the club you support. "I remember when Michael Owen was on the verge of signing for Real Madrid. I couldn't believe it – how could he leave Liverpool? I turned to Steve [Heighway] and asked why on earth anyone would want to go. Steve said matter-of-factly: 'Karl, we all leave'. Then he went: 'The one thing that should always remain is the way that the club conducts business – and the fans'.

"I asked him about when you should leave. He told me that the day comes when you get to the end of the drive knowing you've given your all – when you can do no more. The same applied to any role: a cleaner, a security guard, a receptionist, a player or a coach. I wasn't absolutely certain that rule could be applied to me at Liverpool because I wanted to achieve so much more and I was happy. But sometimes you have to take risks."

Robinson had met Paul Ince through coaching his son Thomas, a junior at Liverpool. When Ince became MK Dons manager in 2007 there was an unexpected opening. "Initially Paul wanted someone else to do the job as his first-team coach. He was waiting on an answer from them and in the meantime sounded me out. I told my mum and dad about it and they said I was daft for even considering it – Liverpool meant everything.

"I'd just become a parent for the first time. It was risky, from a financial point-of-view as well. But I've never made a decision based on money. I'm motivated by being the best person and worker I can be, someone my family can be proud of. I judge my life by whether I make the people I care most about happy.

"Piet Hamberg had taken over from Steve Heighway and he was very supportive of the decision, as was Rick Parry [the LFC chief executive] who treated me with tremendous respect, saying I could always come back if it did not work out. The way everyone at Liverpool conducted themselves was remarkable."

Back then Robinson did not foresee the future: the subsequent move from Milton Keynes to Blackburn, where he later worked under Sam Allardyce; the rise into management, becoming the youngest in the Football League – younger than Brian Clough when he took his first job at Hartlepool. He believes the key to his emergence has been the courage to stick to his convictions.

"Ever since I was young apprentice at Swindon I was viewed as a cheeky Scouser," he explains. "It's a difficult thing to shake, especially when you're a football manager where the window for what you do as a professional and as a person is in the technical area or during interviews. The only people who really know me are my family: my mum, my dad, my missus, my brother, my sister and a few close friends. Yet you are constantly judged by those who don't really know who you are. I'll admit if I'm at a party I'm usually the one you can hear unfortunately – the embarrassing uncle. I'm also obsessed by football. Because I'm so passionate, occasionally it might come across as over-confidence. But I make no apologies for that. I'm never going to change.

"I only am where I am because of what I do on the training ground. It's amazing how much more stressed I am – how much the job gets to me – when I don't do it, if I'm stuck in the office. There's nothing better than putting on a nice clean pair of Copa Mundials and coaching a bunch of enthusiastic footballers. It's the best feeling in the world."

Robinson has been credited with developing young players like Deli Alli, who will join Tottenham Hotspur this summer having scored 16 goals from midfield in MK Dons' promotion campaign. Yet he recognises the importance of experience. One of his most important performers in 2015 has been Carl Baker, a 32-year-old midfielder, who Robinson first saw playing in the same Liverpool youth side as his brother Craig, before he was released as a teenager for being too small.



With Paul Ince at Blackburn Rovers

"I respect Man United but you can imagine how it felt to beat them"

"Graeme Souness is right – you can never have enough senior pros. They set the standards for the rest of the group. They drag the younger lads over the line. For every academy player I promote into the first team, I try to make sure there is the same number of senior players. Finding that balance is crucial."

A marker for the season was laid when MK Dons thrashed Manchester United, knocking them out of the League Cup in August. "It was surreal. It's easy to forget that United had seven established international players in their side, as well as David de Gea who's probably been the best goalkeeper in the Premier League since. I remember looking up at the scoreboard with 86 minutes gone. The crowd started singing 'It's 4-0 and you're getting beaten by a Scouser'. Being from Liverpool, you get so much stick up and down the country. For once it being sang in a jovial way was a moment I'll never ever forget. I had to contain myself afterwards. Although I have so much respect for United as a club, I'm a Liverpool supporter. So you can imagine how that felt."

Robinson has had three opportunities to manage bigger clubs in the past. That he rejected them suggests he is carefully balancing humility and ambition. "Of course it's a dream to manage in the Premier League," he says. "But I've not achieved anything in football. I still count myself at the bottom of the food chain and I've got a lot to learn. I've got a decent record for someone my age and a promotion behind me but it's no cause for celebration. I don't deserve pats on the back. Not yet."


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"GROWN MEN WERE CRYING...THAT WAS THE GREATEST DAY"

The last in our series celebrating half-a-century since LFC first won the FA Cup: a hard-fought final followed by unprecedented scenes back in the city

After a wait of 72 years, 10 months and 29 days, Liverpool Football Club's wait for the FA Cup was over. Legend had it that if the Reds ever won the competition, the Liver Birds would fly away from the Liver Building.

The team still stretched it out for their expectant supporters – taking the final against Leeds United deep into extra-time before securing a success that manager Bill Shankly had been committed to achieving since taking the reins at Anfield five-and-a-half years earlier.

The following day an estimated quarter-of-a-million people lined the city's streets as they clambered for a position from which to observe their returning heroes with the coveted piece of silverware. In his autobiography Shankly recalled: "We celebrated with a banquet at the Hilton and brought the cup into the city of Liverpool from Lime Street station. That was a mistake. We should have left the train at Allerton, as we did when we won the cup in 1974, and driven into the city by bus so that more people could see the cup on the outskirts.

"The reception in the city-centre was unbelievable. The emotion was tremendous. When we came out of the station we couldn't see anything but buildings and faces. People were climbing up the walls of shops and banks and hoardings to get a better view. They were in dangerous places. But their name was on the cup at last, and that was all that mattered."

Brothers Bill and Alan Hendry were teenagers at the time. The pair lived in the Anfield area and were at Wembley to see Shankly's side finally add the sought-after silverware to their trophy cabinet. "After the train journey back,

people conga-ed out of Lime Street in celebration," Alan recalls. "I think that a lot of Liverpool fans went down to the Liver Building to see if the birds on it had flown away. It was a special night." Bill adds: "When we got to our house we were shattered. I remember asking to be woken early the next morning [Sunday] because we wanted to go into town to see the team with the cup."

At the Town Hall, Shankly addressed the people who had come out to cheer their heroes. "We couldn't get near it – there were thousands of people around," remembers Alan.

"You couldn't hear the tannoy system properly," says Bill. "Even if we could, it would've been impossible to understand what Shanks was on about!" Alan again: "I ended up on Dale Street, rather than in front of the Town Hall on Castle Street. But the excitement is what I recall most. Winning the cup didn't feel real at the time."

The incredible scenes set the tone for future triumphs as it became a tradition for a sea of fans to jostle for position to toast the Reds following further FA Cup and European Cup triumphs.

Liverpool's path to the edge of glory had seen them navigate their way past West Brom, Stockport County, Bolton, Leicester and Chelsea. Having achieved that, Shankly was meticulous in his preparations for the final, even having an empty bus follow the team from their hotel in Weybridge to Wembley in case their own vehicle should break down.



Just before kick-off

Five days earlier, the team had completed their league campaign with a 3-1 win over Wolves at Molineux. Alan Hignett, Thomas Lowry, Bill Molyneux and John Sealey all made their debuts as Shankly fielded a second-string side as he eyed the bigger picture of the date at Wembley followed by a two-legged European Cup semi-final against Inter Milan.

Captain Ron Yeats had rehearsed words to say to the Queen in readiness for a Liverpool victory, but Shankly was determined to take the pressure off his team ahead of the clash with Don Revie's side. He'd appeared in relaxed mood on radio favourite Desert Island Discs the week before the final, and on the day of the game Liverpudlian singer Frankie Vaughan and comedian Jimmy Tarbuck were guests in the Reds dressing-room ahead of kick-off.

"Leeds are honoured to be on the same field – you are going to win"

Despite a meagre ticket allocation of just 15,000 for both sets of fans, the travelling Kopites were in fine voice and lit up a grey day in the capital with their red-and-white flags

Leeds had been promoted to the top-flight as Second Division champions just 12 months earlier and had then only missed out on the First Division title on goal-average to Manchester United.

Already gaining a reputation for a pragmatic approach under Revie, Leeds would enjoy an intense rivalry with Liverpool in the years ahead. Shankly however had his psychologist's hat at the ready. "'Leeds are honoured to be on the same field as you,'' he told his players before kick-off. "You're going to win because you're the best team and you're not going to disappoint the greatest supporters in the world."

Years later Shankly recalled: "We decided we would play the ball around and be patient. We were not going to be erratic. We wanted to win that cup. Whether we entertained people or not didn't make any difference. In the end we had to go into extra-time, but we won the game."

A battle was expected and with a series of fouls throughout, the final is not remembered as a classic. The game was 10 minutes old when Gerry Byrne sustained an injury that became part of Liverpool folklore, breaking his collarbone after being clattered by Leeds skipper Bobby Collins.



Hunt puts the Reds ahead

With no substitutes allowed in those days, the full-back carried on. The dour defensive approach of Revie's side, allied to Liverpool's caution, meant the opening 90 minutes failed to produce a goal and the final went into extra-time for the first time since 1947.

The Reds, however, prided themselves on their fitness and were well steeled for the extra half-hour. Within three minutes Willie Stevenson picked out Byrne whose cut-back was headed home by Roger Hunt. The joy was short-lived however with Leeds leveling eight minutes later through a venomous strike from Billy Bremner. But on 111 minutes came the moment that would confer hero status upon Ian St John arrived.

In his autobiography *The Saint*, the Scottish striker recalled "the sweetest moment of my football life… Willie Stevenson worked Ian Callaghan away on the right and Ian, as almost always, timed his cross perfectly. For some reason Gary Sprake, the Leeds goalkeeper, came off his line to get the ball against all the odds, and I went past him to meet it. The Leeds line was guarded by their right-back Paul Reaney but the net seemed huge to me now, and I headed the ball with a heavy bump. It flew home.

"We were back in the lead with nine minutes to go. If you haven't found God in your life, you find Him at times like that. You hear yourself praying, please God, give me this. I had never had such an attack of instant religion and it seemed that the game, and my conversion, would last forever. Then it was over, gloriously, beautifully. Finally the Liver Birds had flown out of our lives."

After climbing the steps to the Royal Box, Yeats forgot his lines to the monarch and muttered an exhausted thank-you as he was handed the cup. "Evertonians had always ribbed Liverpudlians about the fact that Liverpool had never won the FA Cup and I received a tremendous amount of mail after the final, congratulating me, as captain, on our victory," said Shankly's Colossus. "Some were



It's ours! Displaying the FA Cup from the Town Hall



"The net seemed huge and I headed the ball home with a bump"

from older supporters who actually wrote that they could now die in peace after Liverpool had won the trophy."

For Shankly, the triumph was far more than a box ticked. It was a significant signpost on the way to establishing an Anfield dynasty. "The fervor and humour of our supporters came over loud and clear," he told journalist John Roberts in his autobiography. "They even changed the National Anthem to 'God Save Our Gracious Team' – and that was the finest I ever heard the anthem sung! At the end of the day they chanted: 'Ee-aye-addio, we've won the cup!'

"It was a wet day, raining and splashing, and my shoes and pants were covered in white from the chalk off the pitch as I walked up to the end of the ground where our supporters were massed. I took off my coat and went to the supporters because they had got the cup for the first time.

"Grown men were crying and it was the greatest feeling any human could have to see what we had done. There have been many proud moments. Wonderful, fantastic moments. But that was the greatest day."

The thousands who descended on the city-centre the following day were in no mood to disagree.

St John and Yeats were honoured at the club's recent Players' Awards

Match facts & statistics

LIVERPOOL 2 LEEDS UNITED 1
(after extra-time)
FA Cup final 01.05.65 Wembley

Goals: Hunt (93), St John (111); Bremner (102)
Attendance: 100,000
Referee: W Clements
Liverpool: Lawrence; Lawler, Byrne; Strong, Yeats, Stevenson; Callaghan, Hunt, St John, Smith, Thompson.
Leeds United: Sprake; Reaney, Bell; Bremner, Charlton, Hunter; Giles, Storrie, Peacock, Collins, Johanneson.

Get the book see the show

Mark Platt's book *Cup Kings: Liverpool 1965* is now available as an ebook to commemorate the 50th anniversary of one of the greatest days in the club's history. Available now at Amazon. And on LFCTV and LFCTV Go, don't miss *Ee-Aye-Addio: 1965 and all that*, a 70-minute documentary featuring interviews with key players.

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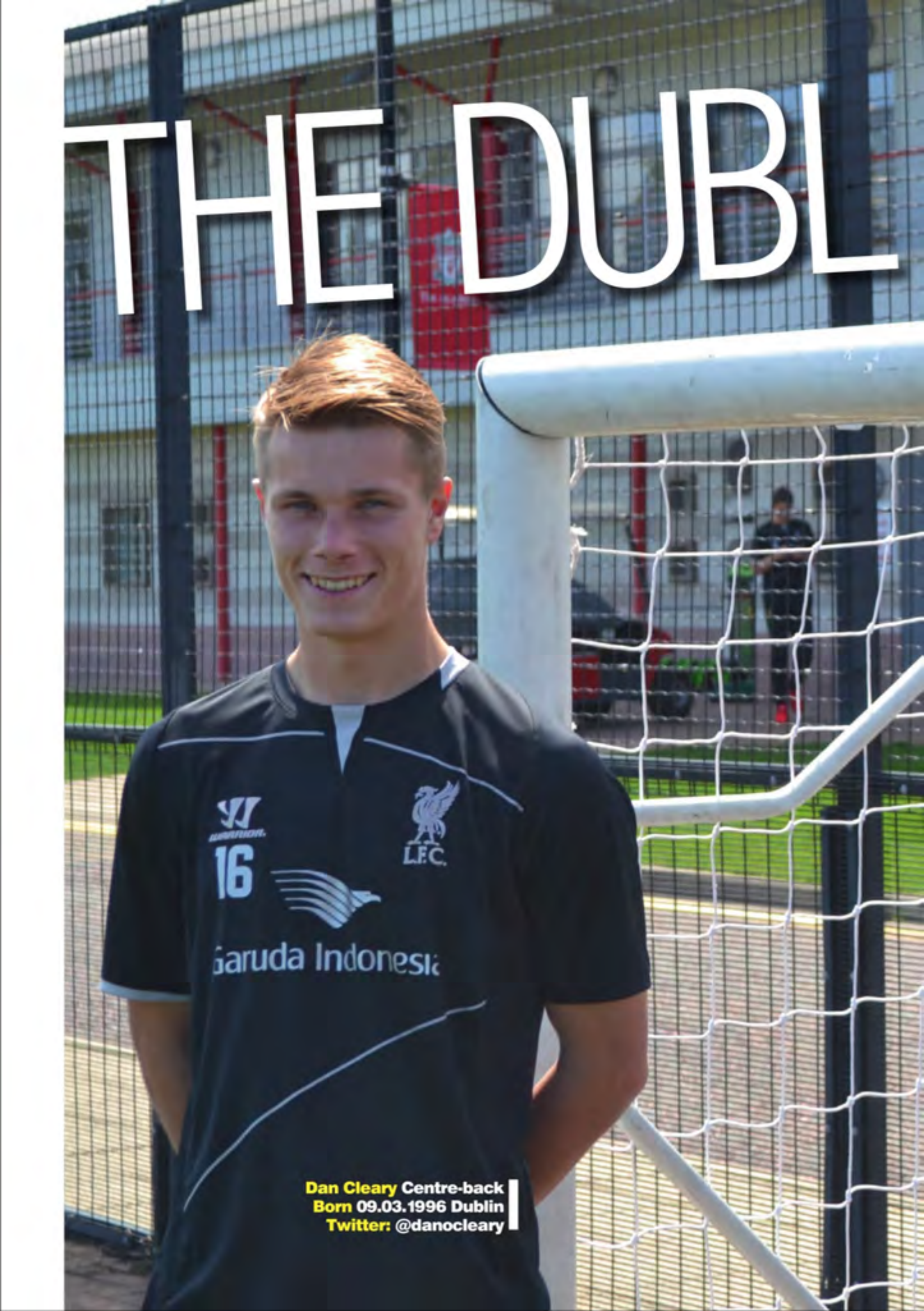
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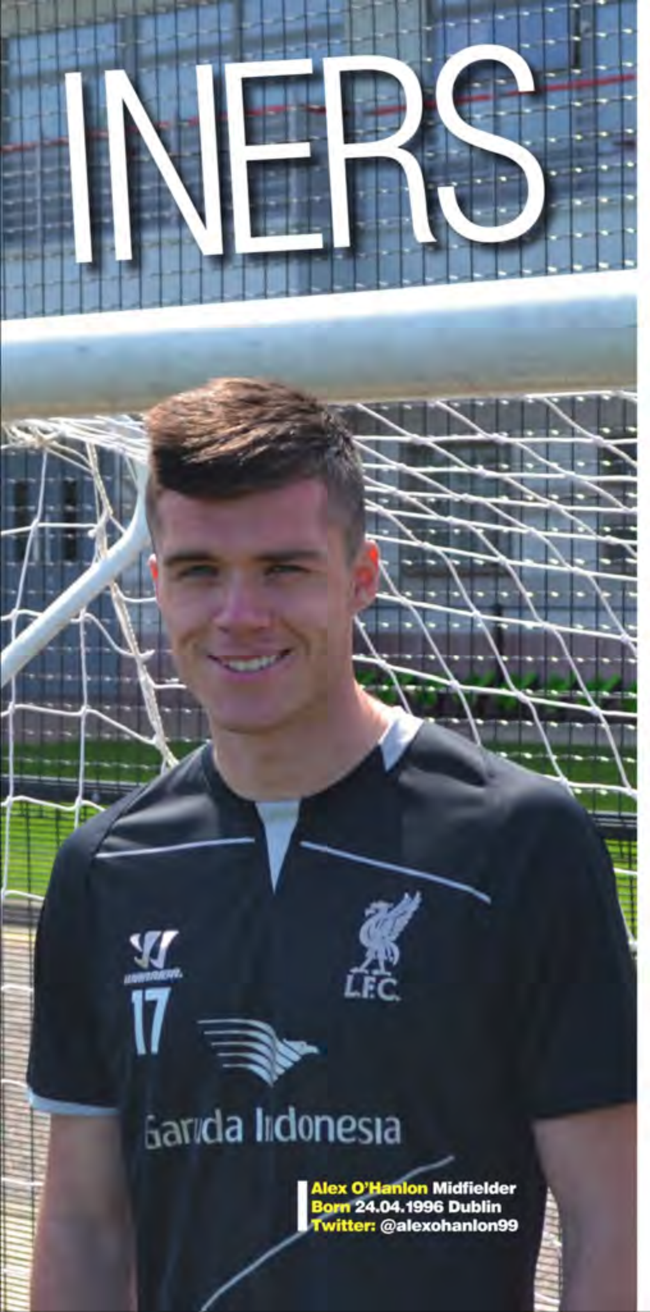
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THE DUBL

Dan Cleary Centre-back
Born 09.03.1996 Dublin
Twitter: @danocleary



Alex O'Hanlon Midfielder
Born 24.04.1996 Dublin
Twitter: @alexohanlon99

Dan Cleary and Alex O'Hanlon, two talented Irish lads in Liverpool FC's Under-21 squad, reveal their hopes and aspirations to John Hynes

Tell us how you both joined Liverpool...

AO'H: I'm from south Dublin and was playing for a team named St Kevin's when a scout spotted me. I was 15 and came over here quite a few times to train before signing a contract.

DC: It was a similar situation for me. I'm from south Dublin too, a place called Drimnagh. We actually played together in the same district side back home. After I'd been spotted playing for Crumlin United I travelled over here during holidays to train and then joined permanently. I was 15 too.

Leaving home to move to a new country at such a young age can't be easy...

DC: When it happened we were still kids really. You just see a chance to play for Liverpool and it's a dream come true. You don't realise exactly what it will involve, the ins and outs of it all. Now, when you're older and you think about things more, it would probably be a tougher decision.

AO'H: It's a big decision. You are leaving your family and friends behind. You are basically giving up your teenage years. It takes a while to think about it and then it takes a while to feel comfortable when you get here. The first few weeks after you move are tough.

DC: I was really homesick for probably four or five months. Everything changes – it's not just the football. You start going to school here too.

AO'H: We lived in the same digs for the first two years so that helped because we were going through it all together. After a while you do settle in.

Part of that process is feeling comfortable in the dressing-room - there seems to be a few characters among the squad...

DC: Definitely. Lawrence Vigouroux [goalkeeper] never stops talking. He's got to be the loudest.

AO'H: Ryan McLaughlin is another who's loud. There is always laughing and joking going on. We'll be giving the Manchester lads [Joe Maguire and Cameron Brannagan] some stick. Or someone else will be joking with us.

DC: It's all good-natured. You need that because football can't be serious all of the time.

Dan, you're a centre-back, and Alex, you play in midfield. Have you always been in those positions?
AO'H: At Under-15 level I was usually a left-back. Now I'm a central midfielder. I think that's been a good change for me because I like getting on the ball and passing it about. I don't like defending too much so it's definitely good in that sense!
DC: When I was younger I used to play centre-mid. As I got older I moved back into the defence. Midfield was good because you could score more goals. I get one or two now but obviously not as many.

Liverpool's style of play is very much based on attacking – how does that affect you directly?
DC: It probably gives defenders some more work to do because there might be times when we play three at the back. In that formation you can end up in one-on-ones quite a lot, so your defending in those situations has to be good. It forces you to improve.
AO'H: As a midfielder who wants to go forward it's great. We are really encouraged to get at the opposition and create or score.

"I can't stand losing at anything, football or ping-pong – I hate it!"

Football is always evolving – how important is it for young players to be adaptable?
AO'H: You have to be able to play in different formations because the team isn't always going to set up the same way. Or if you go out on loan there are no guarantees that the formation would be exactly the same as it is here.
DC: I think we've already had some experience of how football changes by moving from Ireland to England. In Dublin the style is different, part of it is about getting stuck in.
AO'H: Then we came here and there is so much more emphasis on getting the ball down and passing it.

Steve McManaman, Rob Jones and Robbie Fowler attend U21 games don't they?
AO'H: They don't run training sessions but they'll watch and then maybe point out something you could do better or slightly differently.
DC: It's great to have them to talk to about different elements of your game.
AO'H: They'll have a word and you can ask them about what they would do in certain situations. For me, as a midfielder, it's a real benefit to learn from McManaman, a player who worked alongside people like Zinedine Zidane, Roberto Carlos and Raul.

In under-age football is winning the priority or is it more about development?
DC: I can't stand losing at anything, whether that's ping-pong, darts or football. I hate it.



Dan on target



AO'H: Winning is definitely a habit and when you come to a club like Liverpool you want to win every game. If you are lucky enough to get to the first team it's all about winning so you need to have that approach.
DC: Jamie Carragher wanted to win at everything in training, even a five-a-side. I saw a video where the Sky pundits and some sports people were having a kickabout. Carra was almost kicking Lewis Hamilton out of the way because he wanted to win so badly.
AO'H: If you have that approach you will hopefully develop too.

How has your game progressed over the course of the season?
AO'H: I've scored a few goals and think I've done okay. I definitely feel stronger and think some parts of my game have got better. At the same time, I know I still have plenty to work on like my heading and weaker foot.
DC: Back in August I didn't think I'd play so many games for the Under-21s but I've featured quite a bit. Playing at that level has helped me to improve, especially when you face lads who have Premier League experience. You see their name on the team-sheet beforehand and know it won't be easy

"Training with the first team, if you don't move the ball quickly you lose it"

so it's good to test yourself against them. It tells you how much work you still have to do.

Training with the first team must help you to improve too...

AO'H: It does – the tempo is much quicker. If you don't move the ball sharply you won't have it for too long.
DC: The first time you go to Melwood your head is spinning a little because you are suddenly on the same pitch as guys like Gerrard or Suarez.
AO'H: But you have to get over that quickly and play your normal game.
DC: I think that's important. You obviously want to impress, but there is no point in trying to do things you aren't capable of.

How do you continue improving?

DC: I think I need to go out on loan. That has to be the next step. It's unusual for a manager to throw a really young centre-back in to a Premier League team, so I need to get my experience in other ways and going on loan is probably the best [way]. Lads like Jack Dunn, Sheyi Ojo and Lloyd Jones have all been at other clubs this season and you can see how it's helped them.
AO'H: I think spending some time at another club probably wakes you up to the demands of real football. U21 is good but it's not the same as League One or the Championships where people know their livelihood depends on the results. There's also the fact that you would be playing in front of bigger crowds regularly.


Alex on the ball

Steven Gerrard said a footballer's career is full of highs and lows – would you agree?

AO'H: Yeah, every player has good and bad times. When you are really young you probably get very upset about it.
DC: People see being a footballer as the perfect life, but there are times when you think about packing your bag and going home. I'm sure everyone here at the Academy has experienced that at some point.
AO'H: Or you could get a serious injury like some of the lads have had; Samid Yesil damaged his cruciate twice and was out for a long time. So if things like that happen you just have to stay strong and keep going.
DC: You can't ever be sure about the future in football. We know lads who were at other Premier League clubs but it didn't work out and they moved back to Ireland. We're at one of the best clubs in the world and have been given a great opportunity. It's up to us to make the most of it and deal with whatever comes along.
AO'H: In a way, any lows mean the highs are better. They make you more determined to succeed and hopefully get to the first team at some stage.


Rob Jones, Alex Inglethorpe and Steve McManaman

BEST OF THE BEST

Throughout the 2014/15 season the matchday programme This is Anfield asked players for the games, people and places that have shaped their careers – here are a few highlights

That's how Philippe Coutinho and Mamadou Sakho, in last season's matchday programme, described Liverpool's 3-2 victory over Manchester City on 13 April 2014.

It was an early Sunday afternoon and a 1.37pm kick-off in recognition of the 25th anniversary of Hillsborough – with a minute's silence impeccably observed by both sets of fans before the game. Emotions were clearly evident, not least from skipper Steven Gerrard at the end of this thrilling encounter.

A 10th consecutive Premier League win for Liverpool would put them seven points ahead of City with four games left for the home side and six for the visitors – placing the destiny of the title in Liverpool's hands. But City hadn't lost away from home in the league for five months. Either way goals were on the cards between the two highest league scorers in English football.

For the second successive home game the team bus was greeted by a sea of devotion along Anfield Road, and six minutes into the match Raheem Sterling lit the touchpaper in front of the Kop with LFC's 100th goal of the season in all competitions. Twenty minutes later Martin Skrtel's flick from Gerrard's corner made it two. Yaya Toure limped off injured. Liverpool looked ready to run riot.

For the second half though City manager Manuel Pellegrini brought on James Milner for Jesus Navas, and the England winger provided the assist for David Silva's goal. He also had a hand in the move on the other side of the Liverpool box that led to Glen Johnson's own-goal.

With City now pressing for the winner – and only their second win at Anfield in 23 league visits – the hosts regrouped and Coutinho pounced upon Vincent Kompany's error to fire home. Despite Jordan Henderson's late dismissal, the Reds hung on and at the final whistle Gerrard brought the players together into a huddle: Norwich City next.

Philippe told the programme: "It was another big game against a rival at home. The crowd was loud and we were all up for it. We knew we had to play well and did so, especially when they came back to make it 2-2. It's a result I'll never forget. Scoring the winner was an unbelievable feeling."

Mamadou added: "That was such a big moment because we were very close to winning the title. When they got it to 2-2 it was tough. Then Coutinho scored and it was superb – just amazing."



"The crowd was loud and we were all really up for it"



Jordan's goal at Spurs

Jordan Henderson's best Reds game so far was the 5-0 win at Tottenham Hotspur in December 2013. "This was the match where we really stamped our intentions for the rest of the season," said the vice-captain. "It was one of the occasions where people started to realise how good a team we were. We played well and scored some good goals, sharing them out, and it was nice to get one myself."

Jordan also picked Liverpool's 4-0 win over Everton at Anfield in January 2014, and the 5-1 trouncing of Arsenal the following month. "We played fantastically well in the derby, producing some great attacking football. Against Arsenal we just played them off the park that day and they didn't really know what had hit them."

For **Jordon Ibe** it was a close call between his Reds debut as a substitute at Anfield against QPR in May 2014 and his first full professional appearance – for Wycombe Wanderers at home to Sheffield Wednesday in October 2011. "I'd actually made my debut [as a sub] in the League Cup against Colchester United. I was only 15 and it broke the club record for the youngest player. But I made my first start against Wednesday and scored an equaliser after dribbling past a couple of players and smashing it in. The referee then booked me for celebrating with my mum! Although we ended up losing, it's a day I'll never forget."

Jon Flanagan went for another win over Manchester City – a 3-0 success in April 2011. "It was my debut and the fact we won made the day perfect. I didn't know I was going to be starting until two hours before kick-off. We'd had a few injuries so I thought I might get on the bench. Then Kenny Dalglish named the team and I was in it. I don't think that I let myself down on the night.

"I've never felt a ball that was hit so hard"

That was goalkeeper **Simon Mignolet's** verdict on a low, fierce shot by Cristiano Ronaldo in last season's Champions League match with Real Madrid at Anfield. "He is brilliant – one of the all-time greats. At Anfield his goal was a superb finish. He also had a shot in the second half from a tight angle that I managed to push away. I've never felt a ball that was hit so hard.

"With Belgium I've always been impressed by Eden Hazard. He is a big talent – as is Divock Origi. I think he can do really well for us in the future. Two of the best I've worked with at club level are Steven Gerrard and Luis Suarez. Luis scored against me a few times before I came here so I knew all about him. But seeing him up close in training made me realise just how phenomenal he is."

Defender **Martin Skrtel** picks Fabio Cannavaro as a childhood hero. "At first my idols were strikers – everybody watches the strikers. It was Marco van Basten then Roberto Baggio. By the time I moved to centre-back I'd started watching Cannavaro a lot. In my opinion he is the best of the last 20 years. Considering he was not so tall, he won everything in the air. He was a leader and always seemed to be in the right position.

"It's hard to pick one toughest opponent because no game is easy. Every player has the ability to cause problems, especially in the Premier League. Chelsea's Didier Drogba was one of the best in the world. Andy Carroll, both for Newcastle and in training with us, was tough. It was never comfortable. It was a big fight every time.

"My most talented team-mate is Raheem Sterling – you see his skill every day in training. Then there is the pace and



Ronaldo pulls the trigger

intelligence too. He's still a young player but showed last season what he's all about. I hope he carries on in this way because eventually he could become one of the best players in the world."

For team-mate **Philippe Coutinho**, look no further than Barcelona's Andres Iniesta: "I'm always watching live football in my spare time, I love the game and Iniesta is probably the player I like to watch most. His vision is amazing. I also look at footage of Ronaldinho and the way he played, particularly during his time at Barcelona. He is a hero to many, many people in Brazil. I try to copy a lot of his skills and tricks. Kaka was similar and another played I really enjoyed watching. Those two could create so much for the team. That's what I try to do."

Back in defence again, **Kolo Toure** picks Alan Shearer as his toughest opponent. "I have to pick someone who gave me a hard time when I was otherwise at the top of my game. For this, I would say Shearer. We had a really strong side at Arsenal, but Shearer was always hard to mark: his movement, his strength and his finishing. If you gave him a chance he'd usually score. For those games I knew I had to be tough mentally."

"He gets all of the players fighting for the same cause"

So said full-back **Javier Manquillo** about Atletico Madrid manager Diego Simeone. "He is a legend there and perfect for the club because he represents what it is about: hard work, determination and skill. As a manager he gets all of the players fighting for the same cause. The players develop an identity with Atleti – even the ones from other continents.

"At Liverpool Brendan Rodgers is similar in his ways to Spanish coaches. The sessions involve a lot of technique and are short but intense. He is a fantastic coach and I have a lot of respect for him."

Emre Can's first coach was Jupp Heynckes at Bayern Munich. "He had won almost everything there was to win in the game but still had the desire to win more. He gave me my debut and gave me a lot of confidence, to express myself in the way I wanted to.

"Sami Hyypia – a Liverpool legend – was in charge at Bayer Leverkusen and I enjoyed playing for him too. Now my coach here is Brendan Rodgers and he convinced me that Liverpool is the place I needed to be to progress my career. I want to repay that faith."

Forward **Rickie Lambert** said: "I've had a lot of managers help me during my career. Sammy McIlroy made me the captain of Stockport County. At Rochdale Steve Parkin moved me upfront. At Bristol Rovers Paul Trollope made me a better player. Alan Pardew [at Southampton] helped to get my attitude right and set the wheels in motion for me. I was playing down the leagues for a reason. He came along and gave me the kick up the backside that I needed.

"From then on each boss has developed my game: Nigel Adkins and Mauricio Pochettino at Southampton and now Brendan."

For **Mamadou Sakho**, picking out just one influential coach was virtually impossible. "Christian Mas was my first coach when I went to the PSG academy. He was the guy who made me realise how lucky I was. Then I'd say Paul Le Guen, the former PSG boss, because he's the person who had the confidence in me, to launch my career the day after my 17th birthday. I'd also put a mixture of every coach I've ever had: Didier Deschamps, Laurent Blanc, Carlo Ancelotti, Antoine Kombouare, who was in charge at PSG just before Ancelotti; he's the Lens manager now. And of course Brendan Rodgers. They all give you something."



Carlo Ancelotti with Brendan Rodgers

Diego Simeone

"It's a big football city where you can feel the passion"

Allez les verts

St Etienne are old friends and foes from Liverpool FC's past, having met the Reds in an epic European Cup quarter-final in 1977. More recently defender **Dejan Lovren** encountered them as a Lyon player.

"I have played in many spectacular football grounds but I always choose the atmosphere instead of the arena," said the Croatian international. "When I was a Lyon player the derby at Saint Etienne was always intense. The stadium there, Stade Geoffroy-Guichard, is like an English stadium with four big terraces. It creates an amazing atmosphere. Saint Etienne is a big football city and you could feel the passion."

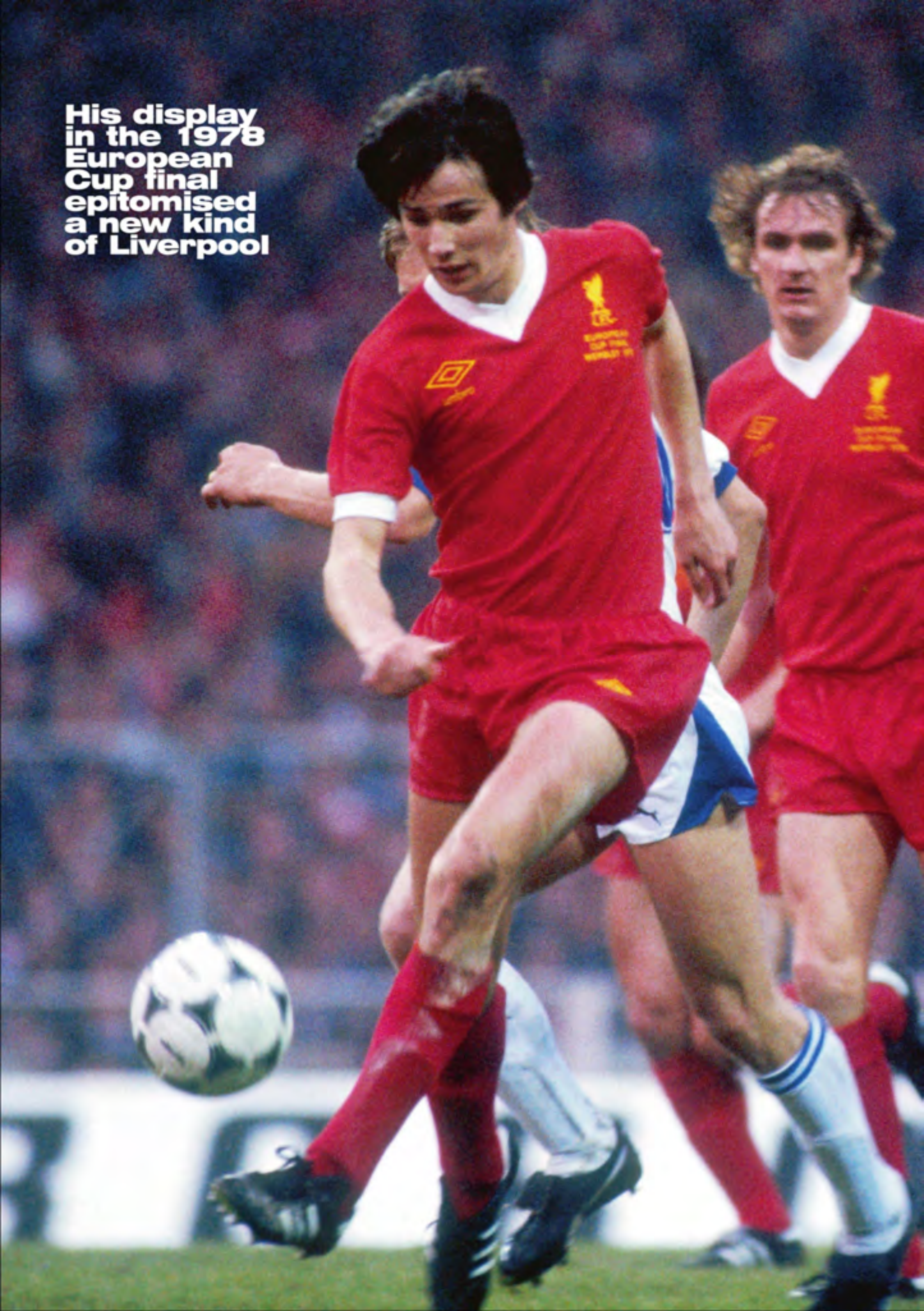
Fabio Borini went for Rome's Stadio Olimpico: "I wouldn't say I had the best season at Roma in 2011/12, but during that 12 months I made the quickest improvement of my career. That was the year I really became a player."

Still in Italy, Reds full-back **Jon Flanagan** liked the San Siro in Milan. "Although I've been lucky enough to see a lot of European football's best stadiums, that's one I've missed out on. I'd like to go there, either with Liverpool or for a tasty Milan derby. As for Anfield, my first trip was at the age of six with my dad – to be honest I have no idea who the opposition were – but I've loved going ever since then. As a Liverpool supporter and player there is no better stadium than Anfield. The thrill of playing there on a regular basis is something that I can't really describe."

Glen Johnson threw a bit of a curveball: "When it comes to non-football stadiums, the San Francisco 49ers Levi's Stadium is one I'd love to visit. I've been a fan since I was young. In America they build incredible sporting venues and they look brilliant on TV; the Superbowl was the perfect example of that."



The Levi's Stadium



His display in the 1978 European Cup final epitomised a new kind of Liverpool



BIG AL

Alan Hansen, who celebrates a special birthday next month, looked cool beyond belief on the pitch but was often a bag of nerves, as David Cottrell discovers

It's not Kenny Dalglish's best moment in a Liverpool shirt – the classic white away one with the red V-neck collar – but it tells you a lot about Alan Hansen.

Old Trafford, April 1980, and it's one apiece between Manchester United and Liverpool in the first half after goals from Dalglish and Jimmy Greenhoff. In the centre-circle Hansen has the ball at his feet as the entire United outfield team charges forward to catch the visitors offside. Without hesitation he chips it over all of them and surges onto his own pass, suddenly and sensationally alone in the United half, bearing down on goalkeeper Gary Bailey with referee Pat Partridge correctly waving him on.

Kenny sprints to Hansen's left with not a single United player in sight. They're inside the six-yard box now, Bailey bolt-upright, resigned to being beaten. If you've never seen it, Google: 'Dalglish miss Old Trafford'. The build-up is sublime but watch the last bit from behind the sofa.

"He was onside but I was offside," Dalglish recalls. "They tried to push up and Big Al's cleared the lot of them and ran after it. In my stupidity, and I must have got a good start, I was the first one up to support him, and Gary Bailey started running backwards towards goal. Big Al's run in and I'm going: 'Hit it! Hit it!'

"He doesnae really want to hit. Sometimes if Big Al couldnae get rid of it, he'd get a wee bit of fright when he got up in the opposition half. So he takes another touch, and I get up beside him. And he looks at me, and he just dips his shoulder. Sells the goalie a dummy, sells me a dummy too. And I'm waiting for the pass. He's knocked it in front of me and I must be a yard out in front of the Stretford End…and I missed it. That wasnae a very pleasant moment."

A rare one, too, when the duo got their wires crossed. It's now three decades since Hansen, Dalglish and fellow countryman Graeme Souness played together in a Liverpool XI. Kenny turned 64 in March this year. Souness is 62 on 6 May. Hansen will be 60 in June.

'Alan Hansen, 60'. For Liverpool fans that remember his earliest appearances in the red shirt as a tall, rangy centre-half with a touch of unquestionable class, it's hard to believe. So too is a myth peddled by others of a similar age down the East Lancs Road that in those same days when Liverpool reigned supreme – most of the 1970s and 80s – Manchester United were better to watch. United were always the 'glamour team', of that there is no doubt. They also had players like Gordon McQueen and Kevin Moran in central defence. They didn't have anyone like Hansen.

In his first season with the Reds he'd won the European Cup. Admittedly the final of 1978, at a venue past its sell-by date and only just retaining an aura for the big occasion, has never quite measured up to the year before – a

familiar story of not forgetting the first time and being rather less nostalgic about the second. But if 'Wembley 78' hasn't had quite the same ring for supporters as 'Rome 77' the 1-0 victory over FC Bruges – courtesy of Dalglish's 65th minute winner in his own first season with the club, from an assist by Souness in only his second full European appearance – marked the tournament as Liverpool territory not for a solitary season but for the foreseeable future.

Dalglish and Souness combined for the final's most telling contribution and Hansen was involved in another key moment. Bob Paisley's Reds had been leading for 15 minutes when one hair-raising moment of non-alignment with his goalkeeper and fellow defenders threatened to ruin the 22-year-old's evening. Hansen's hesitation allowed Bruges striker Jan Simoen the chance to shoot, but Ray Clemence came to the rescue with Phil Thompson completing the clearance. It would've been cruel on the young Scot whose performance on the night belied his inexperience. The European Cup final was his 26th appearance of the campaign, having replaced the injured Tommy Smith (who'd contrived to drop a pick-axe on his foot in a bizarre accident at home) for the three league games leading up to the final.

As a youth Hansen had represented Scotland in three other sports – golf, volleyball and squash – before joining elder brother John at Partick Thistle where he played as a winger then centre-half. When he moved to Liverpool for £100,000 in May 1977 his arrival was noted in one brief paragraph on page 32 of the matchday programme for a title-clinching match against West Ham United. "I have high hopes for him" was the simple appraisal from Paisley.

A dozen years later Tom Saunders, the club's youth-development officer, revealed in the programme


Golf has always been one of Al's passions



"Alan came down to Anfield for a trial but we didn't take it any further"

that Hansen had been rejected by Liverpool as a 15-year-old after a four-day trial: "We've never claimed to be infallible and Alan is one of the youngsters whom we allowed to leave after a very brief period of time. He came down to Anfield with three or four other lads from Scotland, but we didn't take matters any further and he returned home.

"There are so many things to consider when it comes to signing a lad of that age," continued Saunders, "and obviously we couldn't have been sufficiently convinced. Alan admits that until he left school at 18 he enjoyed his golf more than playing football, yet he never felt he was good enough to become a professional golfer. He had no thoughts of becoming a professional footballer either – but after ten weeks of working in an insurance office he realised that wasn't for him.

"Newcastle and Bolton both had ideas about signing him, but with Partick battling to avoid relegation they wanted to keep him. That was when we appeared on the scene again – and so Alan returned to Anfield, this time to sign on the dotted line as a fully-fledged professional. We'd been keeping an eye on him for the best part of two years, and even when we signed him he was 'one for the future'.

Ray Kennedy who deserve it just as much."
Nice one, Emlyn—and well done!

WELCOME ALAN

Liverpool welcomed a new recruit last week—21-year old Alan Hansen, from Partick Thistle. "I have high hopes of him," said team manager Bob Paisley. No doubt Alan, too, has high hopes of helping the country's foremost club achieve further success.

"Geoff Twentyman, our chief scout, watched Alan play various roles: as a sweeper, in defence, and as a midfielder. He was a good reader of the game, possessed good control, and passed the ball well. Geoff remarked that because he made everything look so easy, Alan was not an easy player to assess."

Dalglish joined Liverpool three months after Hansen. They became pals but tended to avoid each other before a game in the dressing-room. Kenny remembers: "I'd be in the shower room, trying to get a feel for the ball, booting it against the wall, because we'd never go out for warm-ups then. Big Al would sit reading the programme. I don't know whether he was relaxed but he'd be reading it."

He wasn't, far from it. Perhaps finding strength in numbers as one of the team's dapper Scottish contingent, Hansen steadily became one of the big beasts in the dressing-room jungle and a notorious practical-joker. But in the early days of his Anfield career he's since admitted he felt "totally inadequate and out of my depth.


With Kenny at Anfield today

In 1977 they thought I was the coolest character. I never warmed up and I'd sit in the dressing-room holding the programme singing the Billy Joel song *Don't Go Changing*. They'd look at me and go: 'That's unreal for a kid'. But underneath I was scared."

On the pitch though it was a different story, with Hansen explaining: "To have someone like Kenny upfront, to hold your passes and turn them into golden goalscoring opportunities, was manna from heaven. When possible we'd give each other a little hand signal – mine to let him know I wanted to pass to him and his told me which side he wanted it. He could always be relied upon to turn a bad ball into a good one. This did wonders for my confidence."

"They thought I was the coolest character but I was scared"


Title winner with John Barnes and Ronnie Whelan

Hansen's languid gait belied excellent anticipation and a refusal to hoof the ball upfield. Like a young Franz Beckenbauer, with whom he was compared, he always seemed to have time on the ball. Most thrillingly he could stride out of defence and straight into the heart of enemy territory to set up attacks, the way he did at Old Trafford. Against Bruges at Wembley two years earlier his accomplished display at the back epitomised a new, improved Liverpool that refused to panic when presented with stubborn opposition – particularly in Europe – and remained patient in its approach. Incredibly he was back in the reserves at start of the following season, 1978/79, but when Emlyn Hughes got injured he regained his place and never relinquished it.

Hansen won two more European Cups with Liverpool, in 1981 and 1984, and was the last man to lift the old League championship trophy for Liverpool – his eighth in a red shirt – in 1990. By then he was club captain, and at the end of that season he retired with 620 appearances to his name. Two decades as the voice of football punditry on BBC's *Match of the Day* were about to begin.

JOCKY THE JOKER

Hansen, Dalglish and Souness famously loved a wind-up, but one tale involving fellow Scot Steve Nicol, the perennial fall-guy, took even their black humour to another level. Big Al takes up the story…

"We're in Israel preparing for the European Cup final [of 1984] and I've done my hamstring so I think I'm going to miss the game. We're out having a drink and I'm sat there, down in the dumps. Kenny is nae there, he's no drinking. Nicol turns to me and says: 'Alan, is there something wrong wi' Kenny?' Off the top of my head I say: 'He's got six months to live – he's dying'. Nicol goes like this [hands on head] and says: 'Nooo – you're kidding?' I say: 'It's true. He's in his room. But don't tell anybody'.

"Nicol goes to the toilet. Graeme Souness has clocked this and says to me: 'What did you tell him?' I say: 'Kenny's dying – incurable disease'. So Graeme says: 'Take him back to see Kenny. I'll phone and tell him you're coming'. So Nicol comes back and we get in the taxi. He's looking out of one window, I'm looking out of the other. He turns to me and says: 'See when we get there, show him no pity – the worst thing you can do is show him any pity'.

"We get back to the hotel and take up two beers and a Martini and lemonade for Kenny. We get in, sit down and Nicol's going: 'I just can't believe this'. Kenny says: 'Alan, I thought I told you not to tell anybody'. I say: 'Well he was upset and wondering what was wrong so I had to'. Nicol's sat there shaking his head. Then suddenly he turns to Kenny and says: 'Here, I was wondering why you were playing so badly'…"





FARA WILLIAMS ENGLAND IN GROUP F FRANCE, COLOMBIA AND MEXICO

WOMEN OF INFLUENCE

The seventh Women's World Cup kicks off in Canada on 6 June and two Liverpool Ladies will be there. We begin our preview with England midfielder Fara Williams

This will be your third World Cup – how excited are you?

It's great to have been selected and this tournament is a little bit different for me. I'm more mature now – I understand myself as a player more than I have at any other tournament. At previous competitions I've maybe put too much expectation on myself with wanting to do things that I thought other players couldn't do and then underachieving. But now I'm playing well for Liverpool and also feel that I've grown into [England coach] Mark Sampson's style of play so I'm going into it in a better place mentally.

'Beardy' [Liverpool manager Matt Beard] has done a fantastic job with me over the last couple of years and really given me the confidence in the ability I have to deliver. Mark also trusts me in that area which is encouraging, so hopefully I can have a good tournament.

Coach Mark Sampson replaced Hope Powell in December 2013 – has it been different?

For a start he's given lots of players an opportunity to stake a claim. Since he took charge he must have used at least 35 players in 18 months. I also think he's adapted tactically. We lost 3-0 to Germany in a friendly in November and he was quick to learn lessons from that.

We had a great qualification period where we were playing all-out attack, scoring goals and getting players' confidence up. We could do that because of the opposition we were playing. We tried it against Germany but found that doesn't work against the best teams. Now I think he's found a way of setting up a team to win games while being tighter in defence. We were much better against the USA in February [a narrow 1-0 defeat] and then won the Cyprus Cup by going through the tournament unbeaten before defeating China in our most recent game.

So we've certainly found a way now under Mark of winning ugly when we have to, which is something we've not



"I'd love to get past the quarters in a big tournament – I've never done it"

been able to do in the past. Points are more important than performances, particularly in the early stages of a competition. Hopefully we'll be able to take that into the tournament.

What are England's targets for the competition?

You have to believe you can win it. I've always wanted to win a trophy as an England international. Getting to the final of the European Championships in 2009 was probably one step further than we thought we'd achieve, but who wouldn't want to win a World Cup or a European Championship?

We have to be realistic though and we've got to start the group well. France is our first game and we've never beaten them, but we're well-placed as a squad to really give them a game. If we can take points at the start of the group stages that will give us confidence going into further matches.

In my two World Cups we've reached the quarter-finals so I don't think we should look past that for now. First and foremost we have to get out of our group and then the preparation for the knockout stages is always different. In the group stages you can set targets for points, but in the knockout stage they are one-off games and there is a completely different mindset and approach.

I'd love to get past the quarter-final stage. I've never done it and it's something that all the girls and Mark want to achieve.

Have you spoken to Asisat Oshoala about the tournament?

Yes, I have. She says she's been speaking to her team-mates and that they just need to believe. 'Zee' is quite a positive person – she tries to focus on what she can do rather than what she can't. She's looking forward to testing herself against the best. She had a fantastic Under-20s World Cup, she's performing well for Liverpool, so hopefully she can go and have a good tournament with Nigeria.

At 31 you are one of the more experienced players in the squad...

My strength is my knowledge of the game so I try and help people on the pitch. Players such as Rachel Brown-Finnis and Faye White helped me for many years with off-the-field things, and in this squad there are players such as Casey Stoney and Laura Bassett who can do that. And I'll certainly do all I can if the younger players ask for advice. One thing Mark has emphasised is that in a squad of 23, people have different attributes and whether we get on the pitch or not, everyone has an important part to play. We all know our roles going into the tournament and how we are going to get the best out of each other.

If not England, who do you see as winners?

France are one of the toughest teams I have played against, but in tournament football they never seem to progress to the latter stages. I don't know whether it's fatigue or the pressure gets to them, but they never seem to push on. Even in the Algarve Cup in March I thought they had a good chance but they lost in the final. America will be one of the teams to chase as they always turn up in tournament football and know how to win. Japan are an impressive technical team too and fully deserved to win the World Cup in 2011 when [midfielder] Homare Sawa had an incredible tournament. So if I'm looking outside ourselves I'd probably go for Japan, America and, as underdogs, France.

Fara file

Age: 31 **Position:** Midfielder
Caps: 139 **Goals:** 37
England debut: November 2001
Previous World Cups: 2007 and 2011 (quarter-finals at both)
Did you know: Fara is England's most-capped player and has been on the winning team in 81 of her 139 internationals.
Watch Fara and England in action on the following dates:

Tuesday 9 June v France 18:00
Saturday 13 June v Mexico 21:00
Wednesday 17 June v Colombia 20:00 (UK times)

Follow Fara's World Cup campaign through her Twitter account @fara_williams47

LIBBY STOUT AMERICA GROUP D NIGERIA, SWEDEN AND AUSTRALIA

How do you see your group?
It's arguably the toughest. Sweden is a really difficult opponent who always seem to be in our group in men's and women's football – I don't know how that works out! Nigeria will be dangerous and Australia too.

How is the feeling in the nation?
Everyone knows we are a very patriotic country. It doesn't matter what sport or whether it's a female or male event, everybody gets around the US team and supports them. I understand there have been commercials on every TV channel advertising the World Cup so that people get behind the team.

America lost to Japan in the 2011 final – will that be a big factor to go one better this time?
Definitely. I was still in uni four years ago and remember watching that game. In the run-up to the final you thought we were going to win it, but Japan didn't lie down. I think that will definitely spur people on. The group of girls in this US squad haven't won a World Cup and a lot of them are now into their 30s, so they definitely want to win one before they end their time with the national team.

How has the build-up been?
We probably haven't had the best run leading up to the World Cup but we did win the Algarve Cup which got us back into the swing. We compete and play at our best when we are in the biggest competitions. We really fancy this tournament, but there is fantastic competition from Germany, France and Sweden.

Which USA players are your ones to watch?
A few of our older players such as goalkeeper Hope Solo and forward Abby Wambach. I think [forward] Alex Morgan will have a great tournament. Then there are players such as the captain Megan Rapinoe, Carli Lloyd, Christen Press and younger ones too like Morgan Bryant who I have played with in the Under-23s.

Former Liverpool Ladies player Whitney Engen is in the squad...
It's going to be a great experience for Whitney. I'm excited to see how everyone does, but especially team-mates such as Fara and Zee [Oshoala] and then girls we've played with before like Lucy Bronze and Whitney.

"We haven't had the best build-up but we really fancy this one"

INGRID RYLAND NORWAY GROUP B GERMANY, THAILAND AND IVORY COAST

How do you see your group?
Well, Germany are in there so we certainly have a lot of cause for revenge after losing to them in the final of the European Championships two years ago! Our girls play very well when they are underdogs. We generally have a good history against Germany as we beat them in the group stages of the Euros so top-two in the group should be within reach. That would be an improvement on 2011 when we didn't make it out of the group. I expect the European teams to go through from the group stage.

How is the feeling in the nation?
There have been a few injuries to main players, including the captain Trine Ronning which is a bit worrying going into the tournament. It's not optimal to have injured players so we will have to see how that shapes up. To be honest, I think there is more focus on the Olympics in Rio next year.

You have been in and around the squad with 21 caps in the past five years...
I haven't played that much with Liverpool as I have had a few injury niggles, so I wasn't really expecting to be called up. A lot of my best friends are in the squad though so it's going to be exciting to follow.



"Our girls tend to play very well when we are seen as the underdogs"

Who do you view as the strong nations?
The US and Germany and I expect there will be one or two others. France have been looking quite sharp since the Euros, but they have never quite made it in tournaments. But I think both France and Spain are upcoming and strong teams.

Fara and Zee are going to the finals – how do you see their chances?
Nigeria are definitely in the hardest group. It will be hard because Australia are quite decent as well, but I believe the US and Sweden will get through. France are really good so it's going to be exciting to follow them in England's group, but I think both teams will make it through to the knockout stages.

Which Norway players are your ones to watch?
Lene Mykjaland is a brilliant player. She's been unlucky in the last few tournaments. She has had a breakthrough in the national team but not in a big tournament, so there are big expectations for her this year. She is really technical midfielder, a bit like Fara in a way.



You've played at the Under-20s World Cup and the African Women's Championships...

Yes, they were good experiences. The Under-20s tournament was also held in Canada and I think it will help me having played there before. Nigeria performed well [reaching the final] and I think that will help us at this World Cup, although the tournament won't be anything like the junior one.

How is the feeling in the country ahead of the tournament?

It is very good because in the last competition we contested, we won the African Women Championships in Namibia. Now people are saying Nigeria are going to go out there and perform with flying colours, and hopefully we can do that.

The team has been training hard back home and the players are ready. The last time I went to play in the qualifiers, we had a good camp and I saw one or two things which really persuaded me that the girls are prepared for the competition and we can go there with a lot of confidence.

You have a difficult group with USA, Australia and Sweden in there...

We are in a tough group, but I think it's going to be a good outing for us. Having some tough teams in the group will really help the girls to prepare well. I don't think there is ever a 'cheap' team in the World Cup. For a team to qualify they have to be a very good side. In 2011 we didn't qualify out of the group so it would be nice to achieve that, but I'm not going to say we just want to reach the knockout stages because the aim of every team is to win the trophy.

How does the Nigeria team set-up in comparison to Liverpool?

As a professional player you need to learn how to adapt to many things around you. If I'm in the club-side all my focus and everything about me has to be on Liverpool and their patterns of play. When I go back to the national team the coach uses different patterns and so, for the national team, I have to concentrate on them. That's what makes you a professional.

It's being played on astroturf – will it help that you play your club football for Liverpool on a similar surface?

Probably, yes. We train and play on the artificial ground in Widnes and the team I used to play for back home in Nigeria, River Angels, used artificial turf as well. But I believe it's all about what you give on the pitch rather than the ground itself.

Who do you think can win the trophy?

Every team in the tournament will be strong having reached the finals but I think France and England can reach the latter stages. Fara is also going to the tournament with England and I am sure it is going to be a good competition for both teams. Nigeria have played well in our qualifiers, but I have also seen some England matches and I know what I saw in their friendly games too. They are a very strong side and no one would want to meet them in the knockout stages.

"The girls have been training well and we will go there confident"

Asisat file

Age: 20 **Position:** Forward
Previous World Cups: None
Did you know: Asisat is nicknamed 'Zee' and is the current African Female Footballer of the Year. She won the Golden Boot and Golden Ball at last year's FIFA Under-20s World Cup as the 'Super Falcons' finished as runners-up to Germany.

Watch Asisat and Nigeria in action on the following dates:
Monday 8 June v Sweden 19:00
Friday 12 June v Australia 20:00
Tuesday 16 June v USA 21:00
(UK times)

Follow Asisat throughout her World Cup campaign through her Twitter account on @asisato1

CORINA SCHRODER GERMANY GROUP B NORWAY, THAILAND AND IVORY COAST

How do you see your group?
I think it's not too difficult for Germany. There are other more difficult groups such as the USA's. It would be a major surprise if Germany did not progress to the next round.

How is the feeling in the nation?
Everyone is fairly confident. I think everyone in Germany feels that the team can do well.

Fara and Zee are also going to the tournament – how do you see their chances?
I am quite curious as to how England will do. They have good players, but then I saw their friendly against Germany and it was not the best game for them [Germany won 3-0]. It will be interesting to see how they do, but I hope they can finish the tournament well. The quarter-finals would be a target for them. You can see how the FA WSL has been progressing every year – that is also good for the players who play in the national team.

Being honest, I think it will be tough for Nigeria. I am also pleased to see my old Liverpool team-mate Whitney Engen going to the tournament with the USA. Before she came to Liverpool she wasn't really in the senior squad so it was a big step for her to come here and that has helped take her career on.

"It would be great to match the German men and win the World Cup"



Which Germany players are your ones to watch in Canada?
It's quite hard to say as a lot of players have had quite a tough season with league, Champions League and cup games, so it will depend on how they are. But I think the Wolfsburg striker Alexandra Popp is going to be a big player in the tournament. She is still young but is a very strong player and really good in the air.

Who do you view as the tournament's strong nations?
The USA and Brazil will be in the running although they are possibly not as strong as normally. I think France will be a big part of it. In the Champions League, Lyon and Paris have done quite well and that will help them in this tournament. I like the way France tries to play football. I also believe Germany will do well. It would be great to match the achievement of the men and win the World Cup and I genuinely think there is a good chance of that. Germany will be one of the favourites.

Women's World Cup 2015

- This is the seventh Women's World Cup since it started in 1991.
- The tournament will be held in Canada for the first time.
- Matches will span six host cities: Vancouver, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Ottawa, Montreal and Moncton.
- The tournament means the FA Women's Super League will take a mid-season break before resuming in July.
- The knockout stages begin on 20 June with the final being held at BC Place in Vancouver on 5 July.
- Japan are defending champions.
- Group A: Canada (9 in current world ranking), China (13), New Zealand (18), Netherlands (11)
- Group B: Germany (2), Ivory Coast (65), Norway (12), Thailand (31)
- Group C: Japan (4), Switzerland (19), Cameroon (52), Ecuador (46)
- Group D: USA (2), Australia (10), Sweden (5), Nigeria (32)
- Group E: Brazil (8), South Korea (17), Spain (15), Costa Rica (37)
- Group F: France (3), England (6), Colombia (28), Mexico (25)
- Each of the 52 matches will be shown on the BBC with every game available to watch on the BBC Sport website, while all England fixtures will be broadcast on BBC Radio 5 Live.
- Two other faces Reds fans will be looking out for when the World Cup finals kick off will be former Liverpool Ladies defender Whitney Engen and forward Sarah Gregorious.

After joining the club in 2012, USA defender Engen helped Liverpool win their first FA Women's Super League title. After a stint at Swedish outfit Tyreso FF, she returned to her native USA to play in the National Women's Soccer League.

New Zealand striker Gregorius also figured in the Reds' 2013 title triumph and now plays her club football for Japanese side AS Elfen Saitama.


Vancouver's BC Place Stadium


LFC
Standard
Chartered
38

Youngsters such as Jerome Sinclair must believe they can be first teamers

Neil MELLOR



Gone are the days where players can switch off from football through the summer months.

In the past, it was possible to go away with your mates for a bit of a blow out on a Mediterranean island.

Now, players can enjoy a one or two week break but must keep an eye on their diet and make sure they return for pre-season training, ready for what will follow.

This rule particularly applies for young players. They have to come back and impress almost immediately – with the aim of being on the first team tour. There can be no room left for error or regret.

Towards the end of the season, we've seen Jerome Sinclair given a few run-outs in the senior side. I've said it many times in this column but no player can consider himself a first team player until he has played 100 games. I'm sure Jerome will be aware of this. Hopefully his story is just beginning.

Jerome has put himself into a great position now but the last thing he can afford to do is rest and think he's almost made it. He has to show he wants even more of it by returning to Melwood in July and getting in the faces of the senior players, showing that he wants to be a part of it all.

I know from experience how difficult it is breaking into Liverpool's first team as a striker. Young players rarely get an opportunity in that position. The only way they can really grasp it is by scoring goals.

At youth team level, Jerome has proven that he's a natural goalscorer. Now the mission is to prove he can repeat that at the highest level. It's a huge challenge but it's one that he has to relish.

There is, of course, a slightly different challenge for Jon Flanagan. I was delighted to see him sign a new contract after his battles with injury over the last 12 months – another thing I can relate to having struggled on that front early in my career particularly.

"I know how hard it is for young strikers to break into Liverpool's first team"



Jerome Sinclair made his league debut in May

Having lost Jamie Carragher a couple of seasons ago to retirement and with Steven Gerrard moving to Los Angeles Galaxy, it's really important that the team retains a local heartbeat. Jon could be that heartbeat. He's been in the stands as a kid and understands how the supporters think. He understands exactly what it means to pull a Liverpool shirt on.

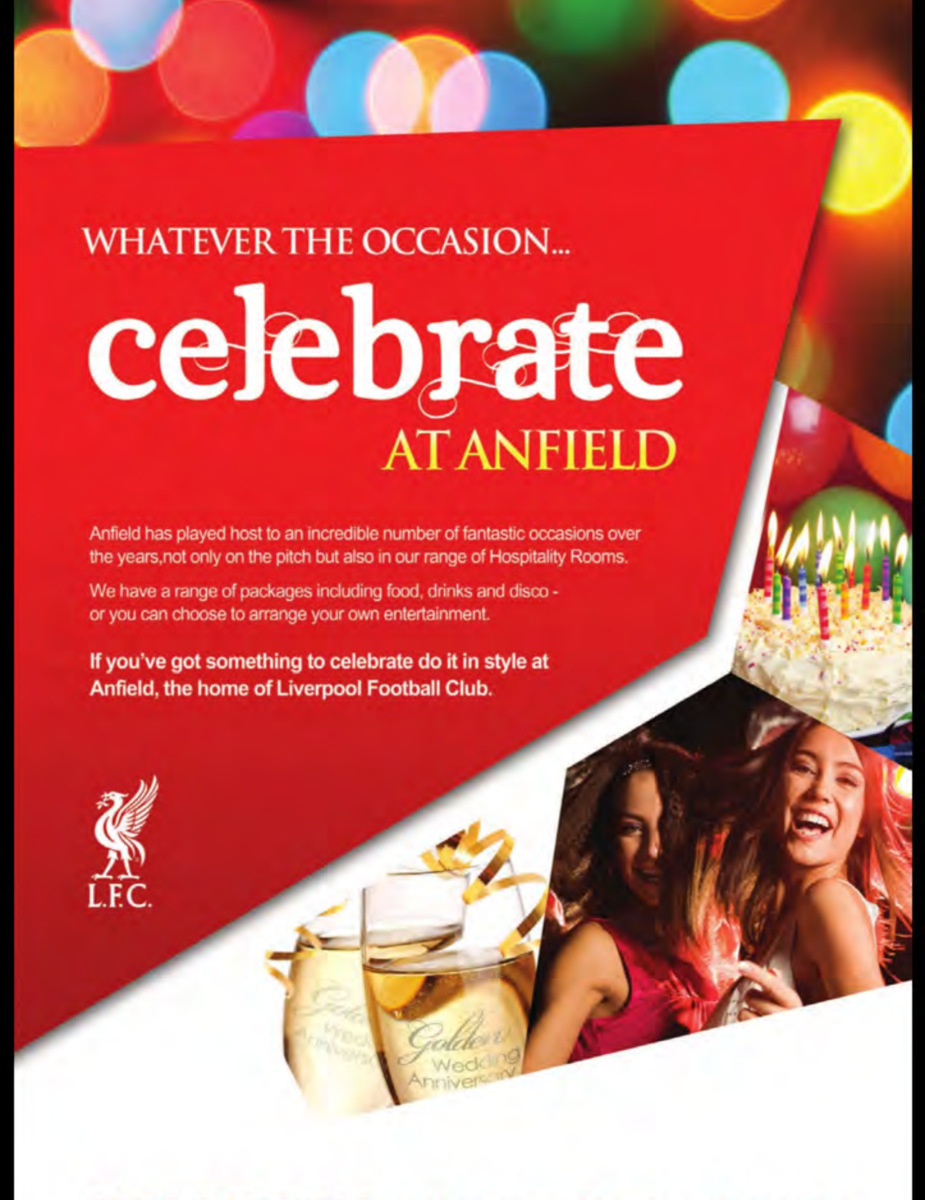
Jon has had a difficult time of late and he's had ups and downs before that: being in the team, being out of the team, then returning to feature in one of Liverpool's greatest Premier League seasons – being one of the star performers.

You've got to have tremendous inner strength to bounce back up after the tough times and he's shown previously that he can do it. I'm certain he can go on and do it again.

I think there will be chances for Liverpool's young players next season. Playing in the UEFA Europa League should provide them with some fantastic opportunities to get noticed.

For that reason, it's crucial that the young players don't just hope that they can become a first team player. They have to believe it.

Follow Neil on Twitter @NeilMellor33


WHATEVER THE OCCASION...
celebrate
AT ANFIELD
Anfield has played host to an incredible number of fantastic occasions over the years,not only on the pitch but also in our range of Hospitality Rooms.
We have a range of packages including food, drinks and disco - or you can choose to arrange your own entertainment.
If you've got something to celebrate do it in style at Anfield, the home of Liverpool Football Club.
L.F.C.
Golden Wedding Anniversary

The Kop



The bit at the back for Liverpool FC's legions of fans at home and all over the world…









THE MONTH AHEAD

JUNE

Legends visit Madrid

Liverpool Football Club's first official Legends match will take place against Real Madrid Legends at the Santiago Bernabeu on Sunday 14 June.

Luis Garcia, Vladimir Smicer, Robbie Fowler, Michael Owen, Harry Kewell and Jamie Carragher are among the ex-players confirmed to play in the Liverpool Legends side. LFC's all-time leading goalscorer and official club ambassador, Ian Rush, will manage the Reds team.

The Real Madrid side will also have a top line-up including such stellar names as Roberto Carlos, Fernando Hierro, Claude Makelele and Emilio Butragueno.

The match will raise funds for both clubs' charitable foundations. Proceeds raised from this game will be donated to the Real Madrid Foundation, which develops and delivers social and cultural awareness programmes in Spain and overseas. A return fixture, planned to take place at Anfield in the future, will raise funds for Liverpool FC Foundation.

The game will be broadcast live and exclusively in the UK and the Republic of Ireland on LFCTV. Match tickets are priced at €5, €10 and €15 and will be available from **www.realmadrid.com/entradas.**





BIRTHDAY REDS

Jason McAteer 44 on 18 June
Mark Lawrenson 58 on 2 June
Alan Hansen 60 on 13 June
Javier Mascherano 31 on 8 June
Craig Johnston 55 on 25 June
Jordan Henderson 25 on 17 June
Jamie Redknapp 42 on 25 June
Philippe Coutinho 23 on 12 June
Luis Garcia 37 on 24 June
Ian St John 77 on 7 June
Gordon Wallace 71 on 13 June
Sheyi Ojo18 on 19 June
Dean Saunders 51 on 21 June
Libby Stout 25 on 16 June
Natasha Dowie 27 on 30 June



Anniversaries

26 years since Swedish international centre-half Glenn Hysen joined the football club on 1 June
16 years since Swiss defender Stephane Henchoz joined the Reds on 2 June
28 years since winger John Barnes joined the club on 9 June
31 years since Graeme Souness left for Sampdoria on 12 June
48 years since Ray Clemence signed for the club on 24 June
25 years since Ronny Rosenthal signed for the club on 29 June

Realmadrid Legends

CORAZÓN CLASSIC MATCH 2015
TU ENTRADA. SU FUTURO

#TuEntradaSuFuturo
#CCM2015



EASY AS 123!

Liverpool Football Club celebrates its 123rd birthday on 3 June 2015.

LFC museum curator Stephen Done explains: "A lot of people think that the club was formed on 15 March but it wasn't. That date 15 March is incredibly important because it was the day that Everton Football Club, as we now know it, booted out the people who became Liverpool Football Club. That was the critical moment when Everton broke up, but not when Liverpool Football Club was born."

After the concept of Liverpool FC was taken on by John Houlding, owner of Anfield, and key figures such as John McKenna and William Barclay, the club still had to be registered and funding put in place.

On 3 June 1892, the Board of Trade sent a certificate saying that the club formally constituted a company and could now trade.

Stephen adds: "The birth certificate we have for the new club that would play at Anfield says that Liverpool FC was born on 3 June, which you can just make out at the bottom of the photograph [shown here on the right]."

"The old Everton broke up before the new Liverpool was born"

No. 35668C. N.L. 34731.

Certificate of Change of Name

of the

Everton Football Club and Athletic Grounds Company Limited.

I hereby Certify, That the Everton Football Club and Athletic Grounds Company Limited, having, with the sanction of a **Special Resolution** of the said Company, and with the approval of the BOARD OF TRADE, changed its name, is now called the Liverpool Football Club and Athletic Grounds Company Limited, and I have entered such new name on the Register accordingly.

Given under my hand at London this Third day of June One Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety Two.

Registrar of Joint Stock Companies



One of the first Liverpool team pics

New fixtures announced

The Barclays Premier League fixture list for the 2015/16 season will be released at 9am on Wednesday 17 June. The campaign begins on the weekend of 8 and 9 August. Among the Reds' fixtures will be a first league meeting with newly-promoted AFC Bournemouth. The clubs have met half-a-dozen times in cup competitions but never in league action. Liverpool will also face Watford in Premier League fixtures for the first time since 2007.







International action

England will continue their qualification campaign for Euro 2016 this summer with an away fixture against Slovenia on 14 June. They'll warm up for their trip with a friendly against the Republic of Ireland at the Aviva Stadium in Dublin a week earlier.

Liverpool players Jordan Henderson, Adam Lallana and Raheem Sterling have all made the cut for Roy Hodgson's squad. England currently sit top of group E with 15 points, having won every game so far.

Meanwhile, Emre Can will be hoping to help Germany to success when the UEFA European Under-21 Championships take place in the Czech Republic from 17 to 30 June.

Previous competitions have seen talents such as Luis Figo, Fabio Cannavaro and more recently Juan Mata and Thiago Alcantara make their name by winning the 'Golden Player' of the tournament. Germany have been drawn with Czech Republic, Denmark and Serbia in the initial stages and will be aiming to improve on their 2013 showing when they failed to make it out of their group.

The month also sees the start of the FIFA Women's World Cup in Canada with Liverpool Ladies represented at the tournament by Fara Williams (England) and Asisat Oshoala (Nigeria). See pages 68 to 73 for more details.

FIXTURE LIST 2014/2015

AUGUST

17	Southampton (H)	2-1
25	Manchester City (A)	1-3
31	Tottenham Hotspur (A)	3-0

SEPTEMBER

13	Aston Villa (H)	0-1
16	PFC Ludogorets 1945 (H, UCL)	2-1
20	West Ham United (A)	1-3
23	Middlesbrough (H, COC 3)	2-2*
27	Everton (H)	1-1

OCTOBER

1	FC Basel 1893 (A, UCL)	0-1
4	West Bromwich Albion (H)	2-1
19	Queens Park Rangers (A)	3-2
22	Real Madrid (H, UCL)	0-3
25	Hull City (H)	0-0
28	Swansea City (H, COC 4)	2-1

NOVEMBER

1	Newcastle United (A)	0-1
4	Real Madrid (A, UCL)	0-1
8	Chelsea (H)	1-2
23	Crystal Palace (A)	1-3
26	PFC Ludogorets 1945 (A, UCL)	2-2
29	Stoke City (H)	1-0

DECEMBER

2	Leicester City (A)	3-1
6	Sunderland (H, 3pm)	0-0
9	FC Basel 1893 (H, UCL)	1-1
14	Manchester United (A)	0-3
17	Bournemouth (A, COC 5)	3-1
21	Arsenal (H)	2-2
26	Burnley (A, 3pm)	1-0
29	Swansea City (H, 8pm)	4-1

JANUARY

1	Leicester City (H, 3pm)	2-2
5	AFC Wimbledon (A, FAC 3)	1-2
10	Sunderland (A)	0-1
17	Aston Villa (A)	2-0
20	Chelsea (H, COC SF 1)	1-1
24	Bolton W (H, FAC 4)	0-0
27	Chelsea (A, COC SF2)	0-1*
31	West Ham United (H)	2-0

FEBRUARY

4	Bolton W (A, FAC 4R)	2-1
7	Everton (A)	0-0
10	Tottenham Hotspur (H)	3-2
14	Crystal Palace (A, FAC 5R)	2-1
19	Besiktas (H, UEL, R32)	1-0
22	Southampton (A)	2-0
26	Besiktas (A, UEL, R32)	0-1^

MARCH

1	Manchester City (H)	2-1
4	Burnley (H)	2-1
9	Blackburn Rovers (H, FAC 6)	0-0
16	Swansea City (A)	1-0
22	Manchester United (H)	1-2

APRIL

4	Arsenal (A)	1-4
8	Blackburn Rovers (A, FAC 6 replay)	1-0
13	Newcastle United (H, 8pm)	2-0
18	Aston Villa (N, FAC semi final)	1-2
25	West Bromwich Albion (A)	0-0
28	Hull City (A)	0-1

MAY

2	Queens Park Rangers (H)	2-1
10	Chelsea (A)	1-1
16	Crystal Palace (H)	1-3
24	Stoke City (A)	1-6

* LFC won on penalties

^ LFC lost on penalties


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Liverpool FC Foundation is the official charity of Liverpool Football Club. We deliver a range of initiatives that inspire people from all walks of life to make positive change happen for themselves and their communities. Follow us on Twitter @LFCFoundation.

Mamadou with All Saints pupils

Au revoir – for now!

Foundation ambassador Mamadou Sakho pays his latest visit of the season to local school

Reds centre-back Mamadou Sakho recently made his final visit of the season to All Saints Primary School in Anfield.

Mamadou, who has visited the school several times over season 2014/15 as part of his ambassadorial role with the club's charity Liverpool FC Foundation, took part in two French lessons with year-four pupils.

He joined in with translation puzzles and games and also led a fun singing session with the youngsters in French. LFCTV also filmed a special Kop Kids episode at the school with pupils quizzing Sakho about his life, career, interests and Liverpool.

The French international is actively involved in assisting Foundation community coaches who deliver weekly football sessions at the school as part of their intensive On the Ball programme, as well as helping pupils with their French Language studies.

"It's very rewarding for me to use my skills to help the school"

Mamadou said: "I have really enjoyed visiting the pupils and staff at All Saints Primary School this season and helping out where possible. It's very rewarding for me to be able to get to know the pupils and the school well and use my skills and knowledge in such a positive way."

Andrea Cooper, head of Liverpool FC Foundation, added: "Mamadou's backing of our On The Ball project this season has been fantastic. His involvement has such a big influence on the youngsters and we are delighted to have his continued support as a Liverpool FC Foundation Ambassador."

A STONE FOR 'OWD TOM'

How two clubs combined to honour the man who guided them to their first titles, by William Hughes



The Reds and Sunderland have joined forces to honour the memory of pioneering manager Tom Watson – with a new headstone on his previously unmarked grave at Anfield Cemetery.

Affectionately referred to as 'Owd Tom', he managed Sunderland from 1889 to 1896, securing their first three league championships. He then led Liverpool from 1896 to 1905, overseeing two more top-flight titles.

To mark the occasion Tom's grandson Gerald Jensen flew over from his home in America to assist with the ceremony. Both clubs contributed towards the cost of the headstone on the 100th anniversary of his death.

Gerald explained: "It is an extremely proud moment for both myself and our family that my grandad has been

It was Watson who led Liverpool to their first two top-flight titles

Left to right: former Sunderland ambassador Jim Montgomery, LFC museum curator Stephen Done, Gerald Jensen, Eric Doig and Steve Lucas

honoured in such a manner. It is testament to both clubs that they have contributed towards the cost of the headstone of somebody who was a big success at both Liverpool Football Club and Sunderland AFC. I know that my grandad will be smiling down, beaming with pride that his success in football has been recognised by two fantastic football clubs."

Alan Kennedy, who played for both Liverpool and the Black Cats in the 1980s, was also in attendance at the unveiling, along with Sunderland's legendary goalkeeper Jim Montgomery. Former Reds left-back Alan said: "It was an honour for me to attend the unveiling of Tom's headstone. He was a great manager for both clubs and it is only right for him to be celebrated."

Watson was born in 1859 in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. After his

"The fact my grandad is buried 40 yards from his friend is incredible"

success with Sunderland he joined Liverpool in 1896, aged 37, and guided the team to First Division titles in 1901 and 1906. He also won the Second Division title in 1905. In total he managed Liverpool in 742 matches.

As the First World War broke out he was embarking on his 19th season in charge at Anfield; it was to be his last. At his funeral in 1915 the pall-bearers were Liverpool players Ned Doig, Alex Raisbeck, Arthur Goddard,



Charlie Wilson, Maurice Parry, George Fleming and Robbie Robinson as well as club trainer William Connell.

Writing in the Liverpool Echo in 1924, journalist Victor Hall said: 'One of the secrets of [Watson's] success in discovering new players was his own personal popularity. Everyone he met liked him and was always ready to do him a service. So, when Tom wanted to know [about] a certain player he had merely to write to anyone of a dozen whose opinion he sought, to get all the information he wanted'.

Eric Doig, one of the statisticians for Liverpool FC's official Hall of Fame, played a key role in the ex-Reds boss being honoured and was delighted when both clubs combined to unveil the headstone. He said: "The story is particularly close to my heart as my grandfather Teddy [Ned] Doig actually played in goal for Sunderland while Tom was in charge, before being signed by Tom when he moved to manage Liverpool!

"The fact that my grandfather, who carried Tom's coffin at his funeral, is buried not 40 yards from his friend who had been such a major influence on his life, is just extraordinary."



Also at Anfield

At the end of 2013 another of LFC's early heroes was commemorated with a new headstone – Watson's predecessor and the club's first secretary-manager, William Barclay. Football historian George Rowlands and LFC stats aficionado Jonny Stokkeland commissioned the headstone at Anfield Cemetery.

George explained: "He was close to the club's founder John Houlding and there is no doubt that along with [first manager] John McKenna he played a significant part in the club's formative days. After the split from Everton it was he who suggested that the new club be named Liverpool Football Club."

In 1915 Barclay's wife passed away prematurely after a long spell in hospital, and William subsequently led a solitary life and died two years later. That he was buried in an unmarked public grave indicates his family was not aware of his death.

Among the other graves in Anfield Cemetery are those of McKenna and John Dermott, one of the original directors of Liverpool FC. Also interred is Bill McConnell, chairman from 1944 to 1947, and Thomas 'Harry' Bradshaw, the first Liverpool player to be capped for England. In 1899 he died of tuberculosis in North London aged just 26, having left Liverpool for Tottenham Hotspur. His dad was the cemetery's gardener.





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FINE AUSSIE REDS

Supporters Committee representative Matt Selby explains why Adelaide aims to 'out-Anfield' rival city Melbourne next month



Little must Matt Selby have thought, as a young Liverpool fan growing up near Wembley Stadium in the 1970s, that one day he'd be representing every Reds supporter on three entire continents.

Matt's official title on the Liverpool Football Club Supporters' Committee is the representative for International Fans (East), a role he's undertaken for almost two years now, and as an adopted 'Adelaidean' he's thrilled that the club are heading for the South Australian capital as part of its summer tour: "I represent Asia and the Middle East, Africa and Oceania, including Australia and New Zealand," says Matt, who is originally from North West London but now lives in Adelaide. "Obviously they're not all Liverpool fans but potentially it is over half the world's population!

"When the Supporters Committee was formed four years ago, I remember thinking I'd like to get involved but for one reason or another I never got round to it. Then nearly a couple of years ago this position came up again and someone suggested I apply for it. I thought: why not? I was shortlisted along with two people from Dubai and Qatar and I was lucky enough to be chosen [after a week-long poll on the club's official website].

"Liverpool coming will be best thing the Adelaide Oval has ever seen"

"I love every minute of it. The Committee is a conduit between the club and the fans, providing a clear line of communication. It's brilliant and it's positive – all big football clubs should have something like this."

Matt still has a Main Stand season-ticket and reckons he's been to a good 700 games home and away over the years. As part of his role he attends at least two Committee meetings at Anfield each season. "I come over by myself but meet up with different friends. I can bump into people I haven't seen for years – ones I used to travel with from London for example. It's a community here [at Anfield], a real family. You see the same faces."

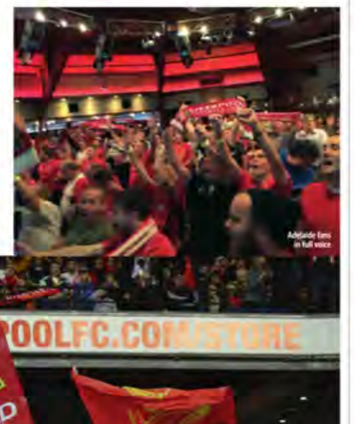
Down Under it's the same sense of belonging. Formerly secretary of LFC's London fan club, Matt was a founding member of the Adelaide Liverpool supporters club in 2006. "We've got almost 2,000 members now. Obviously it's increased with the game coming up, but it shows to me what Liverpool FC have done for us as a branch.

"To watch a normal Premier League game we meet in the Arkaba pub in Adelaide. The earliest a game will kick off, depending on the time of year, is 9.15 at night. The worst ones are two on a Monday morning. A three o'clock Saturday kick-off is 11.30 at night. It's a great atmosphere, and the season before last [2013/14] was just brilliant – we had 500 people at some games."

He ascribes two main reasons for Liverpool FC's popularity Down Under: the number of ex-pats and a certain former player. "I'd said it's mainly due to Craig Johnston. That's before my time in Australia but Johnston was the face of Liverpool when he joined in the early 80s. In those pre-internet days Australia used to get *Match of the Day* every week and the FA Cup final – one of the few live games. When Johnston played and scored in the 1986 final, it was massive. He's iconic as a Liverpool FC face in Australia."

Matt was in the Melbourne Cricket Ground two years ago when a full house sang *You'll Never Walk Alone* – and naturally he can't wait for the game against Adelaide United on 20 July. "It's amazing for the city. We are an Aussie Rules state, too, but the football is big and this will be the best thing that the Adelaide Oval has ever seen. It was 95,000 in Melbourne whereas we've got 54,000, but I genuinely think the atmosphere will be better. There's a bit of Adelaide-Melbourne rivalry, and Adelaide fans want to beat what Melbourne did. They want to produce another Anfield.

"It's not just about the game on the Monday night. Liverpool FC are coming and getting involved in the community, engaging with the city for three days. People haven't stopped talking. It's massive."



Adelaide fans in full voice

The scenes at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in 2013



Honorary President:
Karen Gill honorarypresident@liverpoolfcsc.com

Season Ticket Holders & Hospitality:
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Disabled Fans:
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Non Season Ticket Holders & Official Members:
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Female Fans:
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female-supporters@liverpoolfcsc.com

Families & Young People:
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family-supporters@liverpoolfcsc.com

Fans who attend away games:
Anna Burgess away-game-supporters@liverpoolfcsc.com

International Fans (West):
Damien Moore international-west@liverpoolfcsc.com

Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic Fans:
Yunus Lunat ethnic-minority-supporters@liverpoolfcsc.com

International Fans (East):
Matthew Selby International-east@liverpoolfcsc.com

Fans in Merseyside Area:
Graham Smithmerseyside-supporters@liverpoolfcsc.com

THE 2015 TOUR: WHEN AND WHERE

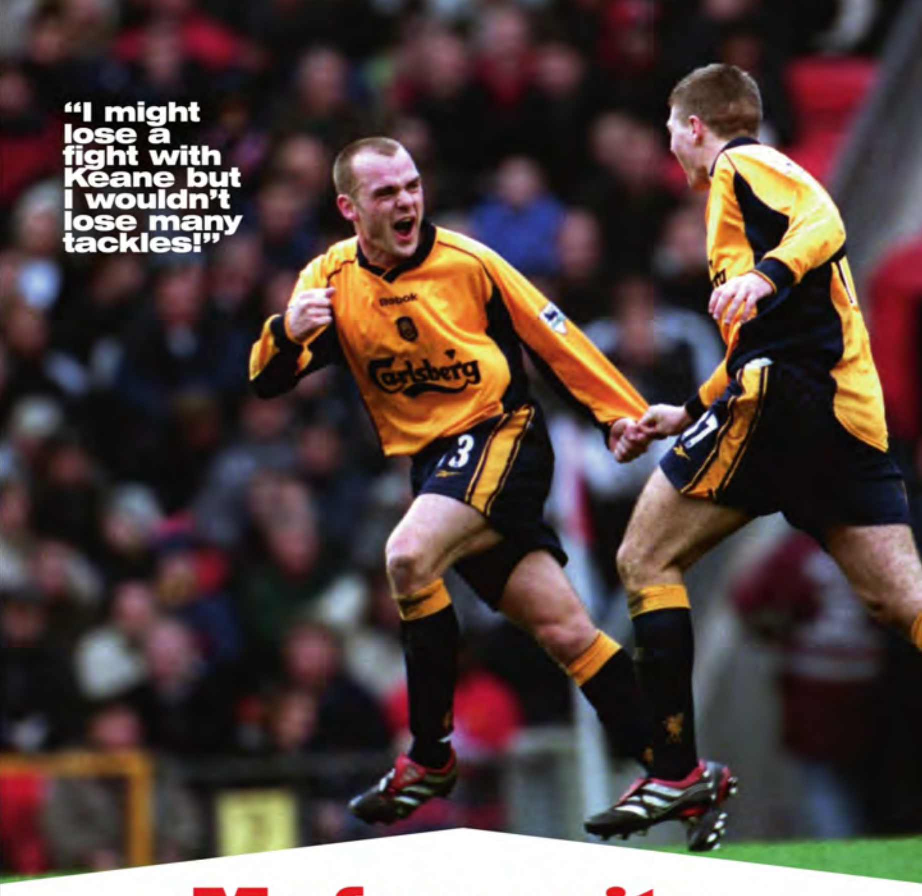
On Friday 17 July 2015 the Reds will face Brisbane Roar at the Suncorp Stadium in Queensland – the state famous for the Great Barrier Reef – before lining up against Adelaide United at the Adelaide Oval in South Australia the following Monday 20 July.

Adelaide is Australia's fifth-largest city and its redeveloped Oval, in its picturesque location among parklands and near the riverbank, hosts cricket as well as football.

Then comes a return to another Liverpool FC hotspot: Malaysia. The Reds will return to Kuala Lumpur for the first time since their 2011 pre-season tour, kicking off against a Malaysian XI at the city's Bukit Jalil National Stadium on Friday 24 July. Again, the reception is sure to be near-fever pitch from the country's loyal army of LFC fans.

Ian Ayre, the club's chief executive officer, says: "Last time the support we received in both countries was incredible. The tour gives our supporters a chance to see the team up close, no matter how far away from Anfield they might live."
Keep up-to-date with all the latest tour news at **www.lfctour.com.**





"I might lose a fight with Keane but I wouldn't lose many tackles!"

My favourite Gerrard moment

WINTER WARMER 17.12.00



Gerrard, Nicky Butt, Danny Murphy and Jamie Carragher

The magazine's editorial team pays tribute to Steven Gerrard, with writer John Hynes rewinding 15 years

Mid-December 2000. A trip to Old Trafford looms on the horizon for Gerard Houllier's team. The Reds haven't won there in a decade and the hosts are undefeated at home in the league for two years.

Roy Keane is undoubtedly the Premier League's dominant player, regularly ruling midfield battlegrounds and clearly frightening many opponents. Facing the intimidating man from Cork, head shaven and veins throbbing with rage, is a terrifying prospect. Hence it's perhaps understandable when, in the process of previewing the game, Steven Gerrard is asked if he holds any fears about going head-to-head with the United captain.

Watching on TV back in Ireland I was keen to hear exactly how the 20-year-old would respond to such a question. The look on his face provided the answer even before he delivered a response. A few seconds later the young Scouser dismissed the idea of being intimidated by Keane, or anyone else. "I might lose a fight with him but I wouldn't lose many tackles," he uttered with complete conviction.

Strong words, especially from someone who was just halfway through only his second full season in the senior side. For me it was the conviction with which they were delivered that marked Gerrard out as someone intent on having a major impact for the Reds.

At that point he had made 63 appearances, scoring four goals. He still looked young and was clearly making his way in the game. Others had started well in their careers only to fade away. Gerrard seemed different. Despite his youth, there was something about his manner that said he wouldn't ever settle for second best.

Only words though. How often do you hear a sportsperson talk a good game? It's easy to do. Backing up what you've said is the difficult part. When it came to the action against Keane and United, Gerrard did it. That Sunday's 1-0 victory courtesy of Danny Murphy's first-half free-kick was down to a superb team performance with Gerrard at the heart of it.

As *The Guardian* newspaper reported: 'Liverpool won because they were exceptionally well served in midfield by Steven Gerrard, who thoroughly upstaged Roy Keane in the matter of commanding the ball and consistently turning defence into attack'.

Gerrard hadn't been frightened. Instead he'd been inspired by the challenge of going up against such a towering figure. The following weekend he would take on the English game's other leading midfielder, Patrick Vieira. Again he was up to the task, opening the scoring with a brilliant half-volley that helped the side to a 4-0 win over Arsenal.

He may not have been made captain until 2003, but here was a real leader for Liverpool fans; somebody who could stand up to the best and overcome them. His presence in the side and his winning attitude gave me hope that there were better times and trophies ahead, and so it proved.

Such an attitude helped him to become the player who more informed observers than me regard as Liverpool Football Club's best of all time.

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HOLD NOTHING BACK



PFA tribute

With Gerard Houllier and Ian Ayre



SIMPLY OUTSTANDING

The departing skipper was recognised with a number of awards

As well as acknowledging the efforts of players, staff and supporters across the club, the 2015 LFC Player Awards was an opportunity to pay homage to skipper Steven Gerrard. After bidding farewell to Anfield the previous weekend – when he received a special golden-boot award from supporters on the Spion Kop – Steven was presented with an Outstanding Achievement Award at the Echo Arena event by former Academy youth coaches Dave Shannon and Hughie McAuley for his incredible 17 years here.

Following the final whistle of his last appearance as a player at Anfield, he was presented with an award by former boss Gerard Houllier and club chief executive Ian Ayre: a golden no8 inscribed at the base with the legend: 'Making the impossible, possible'. The previous month Steven was recognised by the Professional Footballers Association for his 'outstanding contribution to professional football'.



Thanks from the fans



Echo Arena honour

David PRICE

Talented young players like Markovic and Moreno must step up for LFC next season



Moreno and Markovic: they can kick on now

Last summer Liverpool invested in players with potential. Next season will be an important one for them as they aim to make an impact after 12 months of settling in and becoming familiar with a new country and an unfamiliar environment.

Lazar Markovic is one of the players in that bracket and I think next year might be a time when we begin to see the best of him. He's been very good at times, such as the away match at Sunderland back in January [the Serbian wideman scored the winner], and you can see the potential there. Now is the time when he's going to have to step up to the plate.

I think it would be a good idea to get him on a strength programme over the summer to give him a bit more physicality to cope with the demands of the Premier League. But he will mature and we must remember that he only turned 21 in March so he is still very young and will improve.

Alberto Moreno is in the same boat. To be honest he has been hot and cold in his first season, but at times he's looked like a really good player and scored that great goal at Tottenham early in the season. Again he's young [turning 23 in July] and } has plenty of time to learn.

Looking to the pre-season, we will have Divock Origi coming over following his loan spell in France. Like Markovic and Moreno, he's going to need a season to get settled in but has plenty of potential and won't be 21 until next April. It will be interesting to see how he fares, but I think we might need to look elsewhere for another striker too We struggled for goals after Daniel Sturridge picked up his latest setback in the FA Cup tie at Blackburn and, for me, Philippe Coutinho looked our best bet for a goal during the back-end of the season.

The problem with modern football is that people want everything yesterday and that is especially true at a great club like ours. The supporters naturally want success now as we've had enough seasons of transition and waiting around to see how things pan out. However, that can add a little bit more pressure for the players. particularly those younger ones. Hopefully over the next couple of years they will be able to perform at the level we need on a consistent basis and go on and become a big part of a bright future for the club.

On a personal note I will be back in action in the city again on Friday 26 June when I will meet Germany's Erkan Teper for the European heavyweight title at the Echo Arena. My last fight in Liverpool didn't go as planned but that's ancient history now. I'm in a better place now than I was two years ago, and on 26 June people will see a much-improved fighter. I've been working tirelessly in the gym and I'm relishing the chance to get back under the bright lights in front of my home fans.

David's fight is part of a huge bill that will also feature contests for Callum Smith, Rocky Fielding and Tony Bellew. For tickets visit www.ticketing.accliverpool.com. Follow David on Twitter @DavidPrice_1

"The fans want success now but sometimes you have to wait"